Report of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia

1924/1925

(Washington, DC)

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REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FOR THE YEAR
ENDED JUNE 30

District of Columbia.
Commissioners.
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1925

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON, D. C., *December 7, 1925.*

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

The Commissioners of the District of Columbia transmit herewith their report of the transactions of the government of the District of Columbia during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1925, as required by law.

CONDITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The general situation in the District is excellent in every respect. Business conditions are good, and the morale of the employees of the District government is high. The increases in pay brought about by the reclassification act and by similar legislation for the school-teachers, policemen, and firemen, have undoubtedly added to the cost of government, but it is believed that the ultimate effect will redound to the people's interest.

Much important legislation for the District was enacted by the Sixty-eighth Congress, notably the act authorizing a five-year school building program, the act creating the National Capital Park Commission, the act giving the commissioners authority to close unnecessary streets, the act providing more efficient methods of regulating traffic, and many others of lesser general interest. The appropriations provided were more adequate, and the act making the District's surplus in the United States Treasury available for expenditure was particularly appreciated by the residents of the District.

It is greatly to be desired that the Sixty-ninth Congress make a thorough study of the fiscal relations between the United States and the District of Columbia and fix the status definitely for a period of years. The present indefinite status is detrimental to the interests of both parties. The commissioners urge the creation of a joint committee of the Senate and House of Representatives to settle this question.

The commissioners also urge that this joint committee consider the advisability of revising the methods used in dealing with District legislation and the appropriations for District needs. It would appear desirable to delegate to the commissioners additional authority with a view to relieving Congress of the burden of dealing with minor matters. There should be more flexibility in the appropriations, so that the commissioners may have that authority in carrying on District affairs that is so manifestly concurrent with their responsibilities. Quite often the commissioners are unable to carry on work authorized by Congress because the appropriations made

for specific purposes prove inadequate. The lump-sum method already authorized for highway constructions and park purchases should be extended to other activities.

The attention of Congress is most earnestly invited to the rapid development of suburban properties, not only in the District of Columbia but in the surrounding areas of Maryland and Virginia. The appropriations made for the District during and since the war were not adequate and we are now paying dearly, and will continue to pay exorbitantly, for the economies effected in District appropriations during that period. The wisest economy is that which provides for unavoidable expenditures at the time when the greatest savings will result. It is hoped that Congress will give proper weight to this accumulated obligation, due to deficient appropriations, in establishing the fiscal relations. These deficiencies are reflected in the rough condition of the street paving, the inadequate street lighting, the lack of adequate extensions of sewer and water mains, the failure to provide school sites and park and playground areas when they could have been obtained at reasonable costs and in many other ways.

The commissioners earnestly hope that the Sixty-ninth Congress will give thoughtful attention to the recommendations set forth above.

CHANGES IN PERSONNEL

Commissioner James F. Oyster died on the morning of May 19, 1925, and was succeeded by Frederick A. Fenning, who took the oath of office as a commissioner of the District of Columbia on June 25, 1925.

Daniel Sullivan, who had been major and superintendent of the Metropolitan police of the District of Columbia since February 11, 1921, died on October 1, 1925, and Edwin B. Hesse, assistant superintendent, was appointed to the position, effective October 6, 1925.

FINANCES OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

APPROPRIATIONS

The cash receipts of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1925, amounted to $28,718,385.82, made up as follows: Revenue of the District of Columbia from taxes and miscellaneous sources, $18,483,005.09; amount paid by the United States on account of its proportion of appropriations, $1,235,380.73; amount transferred to the revenues of the District of Columbia by the United States, $9,000,000.

The collections from taxes on real estate for the fiscal year 1925 amounted to $11,025,755.52; collections from taxes on personal property, including taxes on gross earnings and receipts of public utilities, banks, and building associations, and on gross receipts of street railway companies, $2,948,386.46; and collections from taxes on intangible personal property, $1,941,073.46. Collections from miscellaneous sources amounting to $2,567,789.65.

The cash expenditures for the fiscal year 1925 from appropriations amounted to $29,003,883.24, classified as follows:

General government	$1,274,250.91
Protection of life and property	5,054,142.68
Health and sanitation	2,873,760.89

Highways	$2,664,420.03
Charities and corrections	3,121.159.86
Education	9,462,525.35
Recreation	1,886,078.21
Miscellaneous	179,596.08
Public service enterprises	2,187,949.23
Interest and debt	300,000.00

TRUST AND SPECIAL FUNDS

The collections on account of trust and special funds for the fiscal year 1925 amounted to $4,102,005.09, water revenues representing $1,278,964.33 of this total; policemen and firemen's relief fund, $90,701.01; miscellaneous trust-fund deposits, $1,219,582.09; fund for redemption of real estate from tax sales, $331,310.23; teachers' retirement fund, $303,953.34; and the balance being collections for a number of miscellaneous trust and special funds.

The expenditures on account of trust and special funds during the fiscal year 1925 amounted to $4,024,104.61. Included in this amount were expenditures for the water department, $1,367,001.88; for the policemen and firemen's relief fund, $80,531; miscellaneous trust-fund deposits, $1,221,722.93; Washington redemption fund, $337,898.12; and teachers' retirement fund, $288,051.72.

CASH BALANCES JUNE 30, 1925

The cash balance to the credit of the general fund of the District of Columbia in the Treasury of the United States on June 30, 1925, amounted to $8,698,789.98, and to the credit of trust and special funds, $703,745.86. In addition to these amounts balances as shown by the accompanying statements were held to the credit of the disbursing officer of the District of Columbia with the Treasurer of the United States.

REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENTS

Assessed value of land, $355,752,055; assessed value of improvements, $463,873,517; or a total assessment of real estate in the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1925, of $819,625,572. Against this assessment a rate of $1.40 per hundred dollars was levied, making a tax of $11,474,758.

For the previous year, 1924, land was assessed at $355,657,562 and improvements at $423,203,111; total $778,860,673, which at a rate of $1.20 per hundred yielded a tax of $9,346,328.

The tax rate for the fiscal year 1926 has been fixed at $1.70 per hundred.

PERSONAL TAX ASSESSMENTS

The personal tax levy for the fiscal year 1925 produced in revenue a grand total of $5,182,546.51, derived from three classes of assessments. First, an amount derived from a levy of $1.40 per hundred dollars worth on household furniture (above $1,000 value), merchandise, jewelry, boats, vehicles, horses, etc., or what is commonly known as tangible personal property. Such tax amounted to $1,399,685.92. Second class, a tax on the gross earnings of banks, trust companies, and public-service corporations to the amount of $1,732,329.65. Third class, a tax levied on moneys and credits, including moneys loaned and invested, bonds and shares of stock, or what is generally

known as an intangible personal-property tax, the amount of this being $2,050,530.94.

Personal tax for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1925

	Assessment	Tax
Tangible personal property at $1.40 per $100	$99,977,565.80	$1,399,685.92
Bonding and title companies at 1½ per cent on their gross receipts	1,646,631.50	24,699.47
Building and loan associations at 2 per cent on their gross earnings	2,286,355.00	45,727.10
Incorporated savings banks at 4 per cent on their gross earnings less interest paid depositors	1,480,591.00	59,223.64
Electric light companies at 4 per cent on their gross earnings	4,494,831.00	179,793.24
Telephone companies at 4 per cent on their gross earnings	5,409,127.00	216,365.08
Street railway companies at 4 per cent on their gross receipts	9,895,582.04	395,823.28
Gas light companies at 5 per cent on their gross earnings	3,074,746.00	153,737.30
Georgetown Barge, Dock, Elevator & Railway Co. at 5 per cent on their gross earnings	15,846.37	792.32
National banks at 6 per cent on their gross earnings	5,600,374.00	336,022.44
Trust companies at 6 per cent on their gross earnings	5,310,763.00	318,645.78
Private bankers at $500 per annum		1,500.00
Total	139,192,412.71	3,132,015.57
Intangible personal property 1925 at 0.05 of 1 per cent	410,106,188.00	2,050,530.94
Grand total for collection, tangible and intangible tax, 1925		5,182,546.51
Increase in tangible tax 1925 over 1924		284,787.15
Increase in intangible tax 1925 over 1924		151,524.49

Number of accounts, tangible property only	24,458
Number of accounts, intangible property only	7,389
Number of accounts having both tangible and intangible property	36,460
Total number of accounts, tangible and intangible, 1925	68,307

Tables of real estate and personal property assessments for 11 years

[Assessment of land and improvements, District of Columbia, from 1915 to 1925, inclusive, as shown in yearly reports]

Year	Land	Improvements	Total	Rate	Tax
1915	$208,279,494	$182,029,784	$390,309,278	$1.50	$5,854,639
1916	207,173,905	187,035,999	394,209,904	1.50	5,913,148
1917	207,355,359	194,743,873	402,099,232	1.50	6,031,488
1918	209,377,939	200,795,670	410,173,609	1.50	6,152,604
1919	208,097,025	206,513,666	414,610,691	1.50	6,219,160
1920	213,499,811	213,123,819	426,623,630	1.50	6,399,354
1921	213,785,853	221,008,933	434,794,786	1.95	8,478,498
1922	224,333,810	248,540,399	472,874,209	1.82	8,606,311
1923	335,538,719	387,660,549	723,199,268	1.30	9,401,590
1924	355,657,562	423,203,111	778,860,673	1.20	9,346,328
1925	355,752,055	463,873,517	819,625,572	1.40	11,474,758

Year	Rate	Tangible personal property		Tax on public service corporations, banks, etc., per cent on gross earnings	Tax on intangible personal property	Total
		Value	Tax			
1915	$1.50	$34,530,823.00	$517,962.35	$757,864.96		$1,275,827.31
1916	1.50	35,041,985.00	525,629.77	792,712.95		1,318,342.72
1917	1.50	38,316,667.00	574,750.01	796,624.90		1,371,374.91
1918	1.50	43,140,336.00	647,105.04	835,181.95	$890,779.39	2,373,066.38
1919	1.50	56,226,510.50	843,397.66	951,234.04	880,519.34	2,675,151.04
1920	1.50	66,821,047.00	1,022,315.71	1,118,389.26	969,093.83	3,089,798.80
1921	1.95	83,844,796.25	1,634,973.53	1,472,027.91	971,848.74	4,078,849.18
1922	1.82	84,566,955.68	1,539,118.59	1,560,075.08	1,007,249.46	4,106,443.13
1923	1.30	87,588,795.93	1,138,653.88	1,596,262.58	1,825,395.45	4,560,311.91
1924	1.20	97,360,486.50	1,168,325.83	1,678,902.59	1,899,006.45	4,746,238.87
1925	1.40	99,977,565.80	1,399,685.92	1,732,329.65	2,050,530.94	5,182,546.51

REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENT AT FULL VALUE

The biennial assessment of real estate was completed by the three assistant assessors January 1, 1925, and open to inspection and review from the first Monday in January to the first Monday in June, 1925, and became effective July 1, 1925. The field work was done by the assistant assessors during the year 1924.

By act of Congress approved June 29, 1922, Public, No. 256 (District appropriation bill), it is provided, among other things, that "there is levied for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, and 1927, a tax at such rate on the full value, and no less, of all real estate and tangible personal property subject to taxation in the District of Columbia, etc." The tax rate fixed for the fiscal year 1926 is $1.70 per hundred dollars.

The most pressing need is a change in the time for making returns of personal property, which are now due during the month of July or the 1st of August. The time is too close to the period of payments in November, and, moreover, occurs during the summer months when many persons are out of the city. During the last July an unprecedented number of returns were made because of great publicity given by the local papers, and the movies, and the radio. If, however, these returns were made during May, at the time of tax payments, it would give opportunity of reminding the taxpayers of this yearly requirement and would also enable them to make one visit to the building instead of two as under the present law.

Consolidated statement showing (1) cash income of the District of Columbia from all sources during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1925, expenditures on account of District of Columbia appropriations, trust and special funds; (2) revenues of the District of Columbia

	Detail	Total	Grand total
(1) CASH BALANCES JULY 1, 1924			
To the credit of the disbursing officer, District of Columbia, on account of—			
Appropriations	$894, 637. 29		
Trust and special funds	68, 921. 49		
		$963, 558. 78	
In the Treasury of the United States on account of—			
General fund of the District of Columbia	9, 965, 838. 16		
Trust and special funds	794, 161. 94		
		10, 760, 000. 10	
Income			
Revenues collected account of general fund of the District of Columbia	18, 483, 005. 09		
Amount transferred to the District of Columbia revenues by the United States	9, 000, 000. 00		
Amount paid by the United States account of proportion of District of Columbia appropriations	1, 235, 380. 73		
Collections account trust and special funds	4, 102, 005. 09		
		32, 820, 390. 91	
			$44, 543, 949. 79
Expenditures			
Net expenditures from appropriations	29, 003, 883. 24		
Gross expenditures account trust and special funds	4, 024, 104. 61		
Charge against the revenues of the District of Columbia per settlement of the General Accounting Office June 30, 1925	131. 61		
		33, 027, 987. 85	
Cash balances June 30, 1925			
To the credit of the disbursing officer, District of Columbia, on account of—			
Appropriations	1, 876, 056. 44		
Trust and special funds	237, 238. 05		
		2, 113, 294. 49	
In the Treasury of the United States on account of—			
General fund of the District of Columbia	8, 698, 789. 98		
Trust and special funds	703, 745. 86		
		9, 402, 535. 84	
			44, 543, 949. 79

Consolidated statement, etc.—Continued.

	Detail	Total	Grand total
(2) REVENUES			
Proportion of appropriation balances chargeable to the revenues of the District of Columbia, June 30, 1925	$10,716,400.31		
Deduct excess of appropriation charges over and above all of the revenues of the District of Columbia, June 30, 1925	2,017,610.33		
Balance to the credit of the general fund of the District of Columbia, June 30, 1925		$8,698,789.98	

LICENSE BUREAU

During the year there was collected a grand total of $372,707.97 from the following sources: Miscellaneous licenses, $169,691; engineer's licenses, $273; automobile tags, $165,691; duplicate automobile tags, $1,374.50; duplicate registration cards, $1,011; operator's permits, $31,304; duplicate operator's permits, $2,377.

For the same period last year and from the same sources, there was collected a total of $579,094.49, showing a decrease of $206,332.62, which is materially attributable to the passage of the "gasoline tax bill," which reduced the fees for automobile tags, and to the transferring to the office of the Director of Traffic of May 3, 1925, the issuing of motor vehicle operator's permits.

Automobile tags and operator's permits

	Number	Amount
Tags:		
Automobile—		
Owners, at $3	11,248	$33,744.00
Owners, at $5	3,857	19,285.00
Owners, at $10	703	7,030.00
Gasoline owners, at $1	92,271	92,271.00
Electric	542	9,920.00
Steam owners, at $15	6	90.00
Motor cycles—		
Owners, at $2	458	916.00
Owners, at $1	1,324	1,324.00
Dealers—		
Owners, at $6	73	438.00
Owners, at $1	1,673	1,673.00
Free	2,062	
Total paid tags	114,217	166,691.00
Fees from duplicate tags		1,374.50
Fees from duplicate registration cards		1,011.00
Permits (up to and including May 2, 1925; permits transferred on that date to the office of the Director of Traffic):		
District of Columbia at $2	15,322	30,644.00
Nonresident at $2	330	660.00
Duplicate at 50 cents	4,754	2,377.00
District of Columbia free	190	
Nonresident free	38	
Total paid permits	20,406	33,681.00
Receipts from automobile tags:		
1923–24		367,027.00
1924–25		166,691.00
Total decrease		200,336.00
Receipts from operator's permits:		
1923–24		41,109.00
1924–25		33,681.00
Total decrease		7,418.00

Miscellaneous licenses

	Amount collected	Increase	Decrease	Number
Apothecaries	$1,633.00		$14.00	281
Auctioneers	833.35		333.33	10
Auctioneer permits	50.00		20.00	10
Automobile storage	7,008.63		84.13	134
Billposters	60.00		36.67	3
Billiard, pool, etc	9,794.00	$493.00		142
Boarding houses	57.00	7.00		3
Baths, mediums, etc	1,820.85		52.10	81
Cattle dealers	33.75		32.50	3
Commission merchants	1,133.35	20.00		30
Cigar dealers	24,997.00		34.00	2,227
Contractors, building	6,290.83		561.61	327
Confectioners	838.00		223.00	74
Dealers, secondhand personal property	10,773.45		6.67	289
Dealers in markets	2,369.66		.40	488
Drivers, public vehicle	2,851.00	491.00		2,851
Dealers, gasoline	1,935.11	49.43		418
Dealers, kerosene	1,066.00			1,066
Employment agencies	1,195.87	308.35		55
Entertainments	2,020.00		1,692.00	127
Fuel hucksters	553.39	9.89		130
Florists	1,110.00	240.00		93
Hotels	6,741.50	504.50		52
Maturity investment companies	225.00	125.00		3
Livery stables	284.00		56.42	6
Laundries	2,837.25	251.38		225
Peddlers	1,921.01	135.21		163
Produce dealers	9,118.00		1,079.00	867
Public halls	8,458.36		183.34	92
Public parks	141.67	8.33		3
Public passenger vehicles	12,332.25	1,854.25		1,668
Restaurants and eating houses	20,794.50	114.60		1,241
Real estate agents	25,092.00	637.02		585
Shooting galleries	38.00	8.00		4
Slot machines	258.00	22.00		88
Theaters	1,091.67	316.67		11
Transfer fees	168.50		38.00	337
Undertakers	1,750.02		24.98	73
Peddlers, police regulations	1.50		4.00	3
Total	169,677.47	5,595.03	4,476.15	14,263

Increase over last year $1,118.88.
Engineer licenses, $273.

PURCHASING OFFICE

Through this office are purchased all supplies, stores, materials, and equipment required by the various divisions of the government of the District of Columbia.

The total expended during the year amounted to $3,871,945.39, embracing supplies and materials of every conceivable nature, which may be classified generally as follows:

Agricultural supplies	$9,377.56
Automobile supplies	35,289.89
Books, school, blank, reference, binding and binding material, law	103,233.08
Construction materials, use in road, street, sewer work, building, etc	995,524.36
Drugs, chemicals, hospital, biological and hospital supplies	47,898.87
Dry goods, clothing, boots and shoes	94,718.07
Electrical supplies, including cable and fire-alarm boxes	95,848.66
Fire-fighting apparatus and supplies	100,586.86
Flags, batons, revolvers, holsters, insignia	5,517.04
Food supplies:	
Eggs and milk	33,101.64
Groceries, poultry, meats, and fish	192,414.31
Forage	151,962.41
Fuel	418,674.38
Furniture and house furnishings, office equipment	214,486.60

Hardware, plumbing supplies, paints, oils, and lumber	$447,653.28
Heating aparatus, ranges, stoves, radiators, etc	31,556.66
Horses and mules	7,950.00
Ice	9,914.57
Laundry equipment and laundry	11,846.58
Lighting service, gas and electric, buildings only	107,216.84
Machinery, engines, boilers, pumps, tanks, and repairs	82,750.54
Pianos and tuning thereof	6,154.66
Playground, athletic and kindergarten supplies	32,460.86
Postage	18,666.00
Printing and engraving	55,150.56
Repairs, miscellaneous, including minor, to buildings	27,221.66
Saddlery	6,079.85
Stationery	82,013.73
Tags, motor-vehicle, dog, wagon, badges	16,480.18
Telegraph and telephone service	27,401.19
Transportation, cars, freight, expressage and freight	47,801.37
Typewriters and repairs thereto	26,790.66
Vegetables and fruit	11,937.20
Vehicles, motor, horse, and repairs thereto	155,033.92
Miscellaneous	161,231.35
Total	3,871,945.39

CADETS AT THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

The District of Columbia is entitled, under Chapter XXII of section 1 of "An act making appropriations for the support of the Army for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1919," approved July 9, 1918, and other laws, to four cadetships in the United States Military Academy. The cadets at present are: William Hamilton Hunter for the term ending June, 1927, and Horace S. Beall, jr., Thomas Joseph Brennan, jr., and Mercer Christie Walter for the term ending June, 1928.

MIDSHIPMEN AT THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

Under a provision in the act of Congress entitled "An act making appropriations for the naval service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920, and for other purposes," approved July 11, 1919, two midshipmen from the District of Columbia are in the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. These midshipmen are: Joseph Lenoir Bird and Vilhelm Klein Busck for the terms to be completed in June, 1926. Joseph William Ludewig was graduated last June. In the appropriation for the naval service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1926, the number of midshipmen to be appointed from the District of Columbia is restricted to two.

CORPORATION COUNSEL

In the court of appeals 12 cases in which the District was a party were decided, 6 in favor of the District and 6 adverse. Of the pending cases one case was abated due to the death of plaintiff and two cases were dismissed, one by the District and one by the party adverse to the District. Eleven cases are now pending.

In the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, in actions at law, 40 new suits were instituted in which the District was a party. Of the cases disposed of during the fiscal year 2 were dismissed by plaintiffs; 5 resulted in favor of the District, in 4 of which appeals

were taken, but only 1 remains pending, the other 3 having failed to perfect their appeal; 5 were settled and consent judgment entered against the District. Of the pending cases, 4 were dismissed without prejudice under law rule No. 74; 1 case was settled and consent judgment entered against the District; and in 3 cases in which other parties were joined as defendants with the District the cases were entered settled and discontinued as to the District, the judgments having been paid by the other parties so named; 2 cases were dismissed by plaintiffs; 3 cases resulted in favor of the District and 1 adverse.

Thirteen new equity suits in which the District was a party were filed in the Supreme Court of the District. Of the cases disposed of, 1 was decided adversely; 3 were decided in favor of the District, of which one was appealed; 1 was settled by compromise settlement; 8 cases are now pending.

In the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, holding a district court, 34 condemnation cases were pending at the beginning of the fiscal year and 23 new cases have been filed during the year. Of this number, 15 verdicts of condemnation were finally ratified and confirmed; 7 were discontinued; 2 cases were dismissed by the court and appeal noted; and 34 cases are new pending on the docket of the court.

Five habeas corpus cases were filed against the District, and the petitions in all five cases were dismissed.

Four replevin suits were filed against officials of the Metropolitan police department and the claimants were allowed to recover upon satisfying the court of their ownership of the goods.

In the municipal court, exclusive of actions in replevin, one case was decided in favor of the District and three adversely; three cases were settled and consent judgments entered against the District.

This office has represented the District in six administration proceedings and in five lunacy proceedings for appointment of committees.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1925, this office, in conjunction with the Board of Charities of the District of Columbia, has secured reimbursement to the District in the sum of $49,437.99, due from the estates of persons adjudged to be of unsound mind and committed to St. Elizabeths, said amount representing the cost of care and treatment of these persons in said institution.

In lunacy proceedings in inquiries before a judge and jury, of the total number of 390 patients, 358 persons were found to be of unsound mind and were committed to the Government Hospital for the Insane. Sixteen were adjudged not insane and discharged from St. Elizabeths while 16 cases were dismissed on motion of the assistant corporation counsel, it appearing that these patients, although of unsound mind, could nevertheless be cared for by relatives or friends without the public interest suffering thereby.

In the juvenile court 1,491 cases were filed, which, with pending cases, involved 4,200 court hearings.

Informations to the number of 50,863 were filed against offenders in the police court, and fines and forfeitures aggregating $364,670.34 were collected.

The general work of the office consisted of the approval of 79 bonds, 512 contracts, 452 tax deeds, 7 right-of-way deeds, 57 licenses, 18 leases, and 17 special agreements. Two hundred and nineteen formal opinions were rendered. Three hundred and twenty-five reports of accidents and claims for damages were investigated and the reports of the investigations filed for future reference. A great many other opinions were given orally to the heads of departments and officials, and a large number of consultations had, of which no record is kept.

Two hundred and forty-eight claims for damages to lamp-posts were referred to this office for collection and the sum of $2,440.62 was collected on this account.

The inspector of claims of this office conducts the business of the District of Columbia branch of the Employees' Compensation Commission. Three hundred and seventy-two employees were injured and given medical treatment, and also received compensation in the total amount of $11,672.87. In addition a total of $3,214.45 was expended for widows, minor children, and doctors' and hospital bills.

A representative from this office presided at all of the hearings before the policemen's and firemen's retiring and relief board and also at the trial-board hearings of the police department. A representative participated as counsel at all hearings of the fire department trial board. A representative also served on the District traffic board and another on the committee to revise the building code.

This office also represented the Board of Education in three cases, involving the antifraternity ruling by that body, which resulted in favor of said board; appeals were noted in all three cases, but the appellants failed to perfect the same.

The first case to test the constitutionality of the zoning law was filed against the zoning commission, the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, and the inspector of buildings of the District of Columbia during the course of the fiscal year. The Supreme Court of the District of Columbia upheld the constitutionality of the law, and an appeal has been noted to the court of appeals but has not yet been perfected by the property owner bringing the test case.

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

This department licensed during the calendar year 1924 a total of 432 companies and associations, which was a gain of 41 over the preceding year.

The total premiums collected and the losses paid in the District of Columbia during 1924 were as follows:

	Premiums	Losses paid
Life, fraternal, and assessment	$14, 277, 981. 80	$4, 623, 444. 20
Fire and marine	3, 103, 817. 52	1, 108, 238. 87
Miscellaneous	2, 255, 523. 26	782, 201. 26
Total	19 637, 322. 58	6, 513, 884. 33

The total premiums collected in 1923 amounted to $18,974,532.92, or a gain of $662,789.66, while the losses paid during the same year amounted to $6,303,070.25, or a gain of $210,814.08.

FIRE INSURANCE

Below is a comparative statement showing premiums received, losses paid, and the loss ratio to the premiums received for the past 10 years in the District of Columbia:

	Premiums received	Losses paid	Percentage
1915	$798,620.32	$252,708.53	31
1916	871,944.81	348,684.45	39
1917	988,277.03	150,902.44	15⅓
1918	1,208,030.03	231,140.60	19⅛
1919	1,553,605.85	561,784.62	36⅛
1920	1,860,474.07	424,310.19	22⅘
1921	1,644 984.74	589,198.18	35⅘
1922	1,996,996.79	1,099,187.28	55
1923	2,442,344.58	819,799.52	33½
1924	2,234,029.11	871,674.30	39
Grand total	15,599,307.33	5,349,390.11	34

LICENSE FEES AND TAXES COLLECTED IN 1924

The revenues of the department and their sources were as follows:

Licenses for companies, associations, and orders	$15,079.26
Licenses for principal agents	14,137.65
Licenses for solicitors	11,558.16
Licenses for brokers	2,595.89
Assignments of licenses	104.00
Miscellaneous revenues	626.00
Taxes	229,222.11
Total	273,323.07
The total revenues in 1923 amounted to	261,011.55
Increase of 1924 over 1923	12,311.52

EXPENDITURES IN 1924

The operating expenses of the department in 1924 were as follows:

Salaries of all employees	$14,899.31
Contingent expenses	1,798.91
Total	16,698.22
In 1923 the operating expenses of the department were	18,401.66
Decrease	1,703.44

While the revenues increased $12,311.52, the cost of operation of the department decreased $1,703.44.

ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND SURPLUS

In checking up and comparing the assets, liabilities, and surplus of all the companies and associations doing business in the District of Columbia in 1924 we find the following interesting information:

The total assets of all the companies and associations in 1924 amounted to	$12,345,292,713.43
In 1923 they amounted to	11,121,405,559.73
Or a gain of	1,223,887,153.70
The total liabilities in 1924 were	10,581,548,049.29
In 1923 they amounted to	9,172,756,036.10
Or a gain of	1,408,792,013.19
The total surplus in 1924, including capital, was	1,763,744,664.14
In 1923 it amounted to	1,948,649,523.63
Or a difference of	184,904,859.49

COMPANIES ENTERING OR WITHDRAWING

Eight life, 3 casualty, 3 fraternal, 20 fire insurance companies or associations, and 1 recipro al entered the District during the year, while the following withdrew: 1 casualty, 1 fraternal, 7 fire companies.

NEW COMPANIES

The Union Cooperative Insurance Association of the District of Columbia was organized in the District during the year with $100,000 capital and $100,000 surplus.

EXAMINATIONS

The department made 12 examinations of insurance companies and associations and participated in three convention examinations.

TAXES AND ANNUAL COMPANIES' LICENSES

In view of the present stand of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States against excessive taxes on insurance companies, the department has been asked to urge Congress not to raise the rate in the District from 1 to 1½ per cent on the net premiums. The first insurance bill, known as H. R. No. 3689, pla ed the rate of all companies at 1 per cent on net premiums, but Senate bill No. 4148 not only raised the rate to 1½ per cent but also raised the annual license fees.

PROPOSED NEW INSURANCE CODE

The bills giving to the District new insurance legislation all failed of passage during the closing session of the Sixty-eighth Congress, but every assurance has been given that the new Congress will give favorable consideration to this important legislation.

FRATERNAL INSURANCE LEGISLATION

The National Fraternal Congress of America is sponsoring a new fraternal law for the District, and it is expected this will also be introduced early in the session of the new Congress.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Practically every business establishment in the District falls in some respect within the purview of the weights and measures act. The District law is much broader in scope than are many similar laws in other jurisdictions. The general purpose of the act is to prevent the use of inaccurate or improper weighing or measuring instruments, to regulate the sale commodities in a manner fair and just to both vender and purchaser, to prevent the perpetration of fraud upon the public, and to protect business against dishonest, unfair, and other vicious trade practices. It is necessary, therefore, for this department to do much work other than that of making examinations and tests of weighing and measuring equipment.

During the year inspectors made 9,748 official visits to establishments under supervision. The total number of examinations of equipment, including commercial and prescription scales and weights, capacity measures, mechanical fabric measures, linear measures, gasoline-dispensing pumps, milk bottles, and other instruments, was 899,128. Of this number 7,694 were condemned; 2,582 were confiscated and destroyed, in accordance with law, after having been found either illegal or totally unfit for future use. There were 2,957 tests made in the office laboratory. The department also has registered 1,076 transient venders of various commodities.

All new instruments are examined and tested before being placed in use, for the purpose of determining whether they comply with all regulations, and are, as nearly as possible with the present inspection force, examined semiannually thereafter, as required by law.

Records are kept of all instruments and devices inspected, showing the type, address of the owner, date of inspection, and the action taken.

In view of the fact that it is not physically possible to perform, with the present limited inspection force, all of the work required by law, it was deemed advisable to direct special attention to the inspection of weighing and measuring instruments and to sales of certain necessaries, such as coal, ice, meats, milk, package foods, gasoline, etc. As much attention as possible in the circumstances was also devoted to other necessary work.

All complaints received were carefully investigated and such action taken as the facts warranted. Special investigations were frequently made when no complaint had been received, but where it was believed violations might exist. Inspectors while engaged in regular inspection work were also directed to be on the alert for discovery of violations of the law in order that all offenders might, if possible, be apprehended. Corrective measures were pursued when possible to abate abuses and protect the public, but prosecutions have been instituted whenever the public welfare demanded. It was necessary to institute 77 prosecutions during the year. One case was dismissed and one defendant acquitted. Fines and forfeitures in the other cases amounted to $762. None of the cases involved a large amount. Most of them resulted from vicious practices of a minor character.

Much attention was given to driving out questionable methods and sharp practices in business. The employment of such methods is the exception rather than the rule, but they should, nevertheless,

be eliminated, not only because they injure purchasers, but because they inflict upon legitimate and honest business injury which is almost or quite irreparable.

There are several branches of the work either specifically required or clearly contemplated by law to which but little attention can be given with the present small force. Some of them are of much importance to residents of the District.

Deliveries of fuel oils should be closely supervised, since oil-heating plants have been installed in many homes during the past few years. The attention of at least one or two inspectors should be devoted to enforcement of section 15 of the law, which standardizes and defines containers for the sale of fruits and vegetables. One inspector should be available for full-time work on the examination of milk bottles. More frequent inspection of gasoline pumps and prescription scales should be made, and more attention than is now possible should be devoted to the correction of questionable trade practices which conflict with the law. The bread provision of the law deserves more attention. In short, the work of this department should be extended in accordance with law in several directions. To supply the things needed and to remove all obstacles so as to enable the department to function properly and carry out the law in every particular would not involve great expense and would redound to the public good.

The superintendent of the department recommends consideration of legislation regulating the quality of gasoline and lubricating oils offered for sale in the District for the purpose of preventing substitution and fraud.

DISTRICT MARKETS

The District owns the following markets, and their operation is supervised by this department: Western Market, Twenty-first and K Streets NW.; Eastern Market, Seventh and C Streets SE.; Fish Wharf and Market, Eleventh and Water Streets SW.; Farmers' Produce Market, situated on the area surrounded by Tenth, Twelfth, B and Little B Streets NW.

The two first named are inclosed markets, each having inside stands which are rented to dealers in various commodities and farmers' retail stands on the outside. The Fish Wharf and Market is confined almost exclusively to the sale of sea foods. The Farmers Produce Market is used by a large number of farmers and truckers from surrounding territory and is of great benefit to them as well as to residents of the District. During the fiscal year covered by this report 57,061 vehicle loads of produce was sold at the Farmers' Market. The revenues received from the markets have been reasonably satisfactory. The Eastern and Western Markets are in need of substantial repairs. The funds available from year to year have not been sufficient to take care of necessary repairs and replacement of equipment. It would be good business policy to install modern conveniences at the markets, because the rents for stands could then be increased.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education is composed of nine members who shall have been for five years immediately preceding their appointment bona fide residents of the District of Columbia, and three of them shall be women. They are appointed by the judges of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia.

The commissioners are indebted to the courtesy of the Board of Education for the following synopsis of public-school conditions in the District of Columbia during the fiscal year embraced in this report. There were:

Superintendents of public schools	1
First assistant superintendents	2
Assistant superintendents	6
Chief board of examiners	1
Supervisor of manual training	1
General director community centers	1
Secretary Board of Education	1
Chief accountant	1
Director of school attendance and work permits	1
Superintendent of janitors	1
Supervising principals	11

For further details see the report of the superintendent of schools.

DAY SCHOOLS

The whole number of pupils enrolled in the public schools of the District of Columbia was: White, 49,717; colored, 23,250; total, 72,967.

The above enrollment for the school year was distributed as follows:

	White	Colored	Total
Elementary:			
Kindergartens	3,420	1,651	5,071
Grades I–VIII	32,728	16,515	49,243
Ungraded and special	866	293	1,659
Vocational	(1)	341	341
Junior high:			
Grades VII and VIII	2,472	799	3,271
Grade IX	895	317	1,212
Senior high: Grades IX–XII	8,564	2,952	11,516
Normal: Grades XIII–XIV	272	382	654
Total enrollment	49,717	23,250	72,967

[1] Enrollment included above in grades.

The total enrollment shows an increase over the previous year.
The number of weeks in the school year was 36.
The number of school days was 177.
The day schools were in session 174 days.

Teachers, principals, directors, etc.

WHITE

	Administrative principals, assistant principals, nonteaching principals, heads of departments, directors, etc.[1]			Teachers and teaching principals			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Elementary:									
Kindergarten		1	1		122	122		123	123
Grades I–VIII	2	29	31	1	841	842	3	870	873
Supplementary					57	57		57	57
Ungraded		1	1		32	32		33	33
Vocational	2		2	4	6	10	6	6	12
Directors	2	7	9				2	7	9
Special teachers				23	126	149	23	126	149
Junior high:									
Grades VII–VIII				15	86	101	15	86	101
Miscellaneous, elementary				18	18	36	18	18	36
Grade IX				2	41	43	2	41	43
Principals	5	1	6				5	1	6
Senior high:									
Grades IX–XII	7	8	15	101	273	374	108	281	389
Principals	5		5				5		5
Normal:									
Grades XIII–XIV					19	19		19	19
Principals		1	1					1	1
Total	23	48	71	164	1,621	1,785	187	1,669	1,856

COLORED

Elementary:									
Kindergarten		1	1		77	77		78	78
Grades I–VIII	9	9	14	28	389	417	33	398	431
Supplementary				2	11	13	2	11	13
Ungraded				3	12	15	3	12	15
Vocational	1	1	2	7	12	19	8	13	21
Directors	1	7	8				1	7	8
Special teachers				16	55	71	16	55	71
Junior high:									
Grades VII–VIII				4	20	24	4	20	24
Miscellaneous, elementary				8	10	18	8	10	18
Grade IX				1	7	8	1	7	8
Principals	1	1	2				1	1	2
Senior high:									
Grades IX–XII	6	3	9	59	62	121	65	65	130
Principals	2		2				2		2
Normal:									
Grades XIII–XIV				3	16	19	3	16	19
Principals	1		1				1		1
Total	17	22	39	131	671	802	148	693	841

WHITE AND COLORED

Elementary:									
Kindergarten		2	2		199	199		201	201
Grades I–VIII	7	38	45	29	1,230	1,259	36	1,268	1,304
Supplementary				2	68	70	2	68	70
Ungraded		1	1	3	44	47	3	45	48
Vocational	3	1	4	11	18	29	14	19	33
Directors	3	14	17				3	14	17
Special teachers				39	181	220	39	181	220
Junior high:									
Grades VII–VIII				19	106	125	19	106	125
Miscellaneous, elementary				26	28	54	26	28	54
Grade IX				3	48	51	3	48	51
Principals	6	2	8				6	2	8
Senior high:									
Grades IX–XII	13	11	24	160	335	495	173	346	459
Principals	7		7				7		7
Normal:									
Grades XIII–XIV				3	35	38	3	35	38
Principals	1	1	2				1	1	2
Grand total	40	70	110	295	2,292	2,587	335	2,362	2,697

[1] Those who devote one-half or more than one-half of their time to supervision are included under the caption above: "Administrative principals, assistant principals, directors, etc."

Number of librarians: White, 7; colored, 3; total, 10.
Number of clerks, 53.
Janitorial service, or care of buildings and grounds, 442.

SUMMER OR VACATION SCHOOLS

(From July 7, 1924, to August 15, 1924)

There were 6,547 pupils enrolled in the summer or vacation elementary and high schools—white, 4,246; colored, 2,301. (See below for Americanization and playgrounds.)

	White	Colored	Total
Elementary:			
Grades VIII–A and below	2,342	1,358	3,700
Grades VIII–B and below	207	33	240
Secondary	1,697	910	2,607
Total	4,246	2,301	6,547

The number of teaching centers was: White, 26; colored, 11. Of these centers 2 were of high-school grade—white, 1; colored, 1.

Other enrollments in the summer or vacation schools were as follows:

	White	Colored	Total
School playgrounds or outdoor institutions	1,276	107	1,383
Americanization:			
Day	176	----------	176
Night	240	----------	240
Total	1,692	107	1,799

The number of teachers in charge of all summer or vacation schools was as follows: White, 176—11 male, 165 female; colored, 82—21 male, 61 female; total, 258—32 male, 226 female.

SCHOOL GARDENS

The school gardens were conducted during the summer months and throughout the school year. For the year there were 25 teachers employed—white 17, colored 8. All the teachers were female.

NIGHT SCHOOLS

The whole number of pupils enrolled in the night schools was as follows:

	White	Colored	Total
Elementary:			
Americanization	890	----------	890
Grades I–VIII	565	1,755	2,320
Vocational	1,456	1,388	2,844
Secondary	6,292	896	7,188
Total	9,203	4,039	13,242

Number of buildings for night-school purposes: White, 6; colored, 9; total, 15.

There were 272 teachers, excluding directors, who are supervisors in the day schools:

	White	Colored	Total
Male	51	40	91
Female	116	65	181
Total	167	105	272

DEAF, DUMB, AND BLIND

Provision is made for the maintenance and tuition of deaf, dumb, and blind children. Last year there were maintained at out-of-town institutions 77 pupils, as follows:

	White	Colored	Total
Blind	16	6	22
Deaf and dumb	47	8	55
Total	63	14	77

AMERICANIZATION WORK

Americanization work and the instruction of foreigners of all ages, both day and night, was carried on at the Webster School building.

COMMUNITY CENTER DEPARTMENT

Civic, educational, recreational, and social activities were conducted by this department, under the direction of the Board of Education, in public-school buildings by the following personnel: Directors, 1; general secretaries, 2; community secretaries, 7; clerks, 2; messenger and driver, 1; other employees, part time, 51; occasional services, 6. In all, 70.

School buildings

(June 30, 1925)

	White	Colored	Total
Elementary:			
Kindergartens	[1]	[1]	[1]
Grades	88	43	131
Miscellaneous and special	8		8
Vocational	[2]	2	2
Junior high	6	2	8
Senior high	5	2	7
Normal	1	1	2
Total	108	50	158

[1] Kindergartens are housed in buildings with grade schools in general. There is also a kindergarten in each normal school.

[2] No vocational building as such.

Total number of portable buildings	76
Total number of rented buildings or quarters (excluding storehouse)	14
Centers rented for school gardens	5
Centers rented for use of portables	1

The permanent school buildings contain:

Sittings for pupils	68,454
Assembly halls	27
Gymnasiums	13
Swimming pools	2

HYGIENE AND SANITATION

The following were employed to preserve the health of the school children and proper sanitation in the schools:

Chief medical and sanitary inspector	1
Dental clinics:	
Dental operators	8
Dental prophylactic operators	4
	12
Medical inspectors:	
Dentists	4
Physicians	12
	16
Nurses, graduate	10

The total amount of money spent for the public schools, including $1,980,761 for buildings and grounds, was $9,282,289.16.

PLAYGROUNDS

In addition to the 25 municipal playgrounds already in operation, 40 school playgrounds, 5 play stations, and 2 camps were opened under the supervision of the commissioners during the summer vacation. The camps, one in the Glover Park tract and one in Eureka Park at Barry Farm, were used as destinations for all-day hikes and picnic parties.

The schedule of playground activities has become more definitely established and is better arranged this year than before.

The directors and play leaders met once a week for a lecture on first aid or some playground topic, after which the special program for the week was outlined, and an hour given to playing the games that were used on the playgrounds.

The athletics of the public elementary schools of the District were played off on municipal playgrounds. Teams representing the schools in baseball, basket ball, and soccer for boys, basket ball, schlag ball, and tennis for girls, played for the division and city championships. The attendance was not obligatory but was fostered and encouraged by many school principals. These contests were supervised by the playground directors.

Each playground is supervised by a director, and the larger ones have at times two or more assistants or play leaders. The playground equipment while not abundant has been selected with care and is of up-to-date type. It includes sand boxes, slides, seesaws,

giant strides, gymnasium frames, tennis courts, basket-ball courts, baseball diamonds, etc.

An ever-increasing number of adults is interested in playground activities. Some of the playgrounds are small and not adapted to the older boy, so that their use had to be restricted to the younger children who must otherwise go long distances to the larger athletic fields and ball diamonds.

One of the play stations is located at the Children's Hospital, where an instructor in occupational play is detailed from time to time.

An exhibit of industrial work done by children on municipal playgrounds during the summer was installed at the Industrial Exhibition of the Washington Chamber of Commerce in the Washington Auditorium from March 21 to March 28. More than 1,500 pieces made on the playgrounds by children from 4 to 15 years of age were shown. The exhibit comprised drawings, modeling, woodwork, basketry, sewing, crocheting, embroidery, and paper work.

A similar exhibit was put up by the playground department in cooperation with the Playground and Recreation Association at the convention of the International Council of Women. During the period of the convention practically all of the 400 foreign delegates saw the exhibit. There was opportunity to give information regarding playgrounds to many delegates and others who were interested, and many commendatory remarks were made about the handwork in the display.

If playgrounds are to be interesting to the children, adequate equipment is particularly important, and they must be made more attractive than the street. The playground is not a place where the child is compelled to go, but where it may go if it wishes. More playgrounds and better equipment is the outstanding need, particularly for the summer months. It has been found that a third of the fatal accidents to children occur on streets and highways. The most active playground efforts are made during July and August.

The municipal playgrounds of the District are open for 12 months of the year, but there is supervision during 10 months only. During January and February the grounds are simply open as zones of safety. On each ground there is a caretaker for 12 months. The playground department will never reach its highest point of efficiency until all year-round supervision is provided.

The playground is really the melting pot where children of different conditions in life come together to have one interest. Here the success depends upon the ability to work with others. Games and the activities are merely tools to secure the fundamental results. Here wholesome play is substituted for bad forms of play. Proper use of the child's time out of regular school hours is a safeguard against temptation; and it is sought to fill such hours with interesting instruction and play that may develop self-respect, desire of efficiency, sense of justice and admiration of skill that will help make the child useful in the home and in the community.

The three swimming pools were opened June 23 with hours from 3 to 6 p. m. On July 1 they were opened full time. Georgetown and Rosedale pools were open from 9 a. m. until 7 p. m., where three regular swimming classes were held daily, two for beginners and one

for junior life-saving. Howard pool, the only one for colored people in the city, was open from 6 a. m. until 10 p. m. Because of the extra help needed for these hours, the funds were exhausted, and the pools were closed on September 2. The attendance at the Georgetown pool was 19,449; at the Rosedale pool, 20,181; and at the Howard pool, 25,732.

The Washington Times turned over to the playground department $1,000 which was raised by it to enable the playground pools to open during June, 1925, and until the new appropriation was available July 1. This contribution was gratefully appreciated and was used to great advantage, as shown by the large number using the pools.

Through the cooperation of the water, fire, and police departments, street sprinklers were installed early in June near the playgrounds having neither a wading pool nor swimming pool.

The municipal pools were opened on June 19 and closed November 1, 1924. During that time the attendance was 49,533 people. Four thousand four hundred and ninety patronized the swimming classes.

Equipment on the playgrounds has been kept in repair by a construction force under the direct supervision of the inspector of playgrounds.

No new grounds have been opened. Gallinger playground was abandoned. Title to the land on the same block, which is to replace it, has not yet been secured.

The daily schedule when schools are in session is from 11.45 until dusk. On Saturdays and during the Easter and Christmas holidays the playgrounds are open from 9 a. m. until dusk. The average daily attendance during the year was 17,937.

THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Mount Pleasant branch library, one of the finest branch library buildings in the country, has been completed. The new building is the gift of the Carnegie Corporation and cost $200,000. Appropriations amounting to $40,000 for stocking the branch were secured in a deficiency bill and in the current year's regular appropriation. On May 16, 1925, the branch was opened to the public with more than 11,000 books on its shelves. Conveniently located in the center of a populous section of the city, it is being used by such throngs of readers as to tax the resources of staff and book stock. While the figures of circulation and registration are exceedingly gratifying, at the same time it is evident that the staff is too small to meet the heavy demands that will be made upon it during the coming winter. The most pressing need of the new branch is an appropriation for opening the children's room on the second floor. The splendid equipment and carefully chosen book stock of that room are now standing idle for lack of provision for staff in the 1926 appropriation act. The library trustees recommend that strong efforts be made to secure an appropriation in a deficiency bill, to be available soon after Congress convenes, thus obviating the necessity of postponing service to children for more than a year after the branch library has been opened.

The plan proposed by library officials and the school board and indorsed by the commissioners of establishing branch libraries in certain public schools as an effective and economical method of extending library service to the citizens of Washington made some progress during the past year. An appropriation was secured in a deficiency bill for equipping branch library rooms in two colored schools—the Deanwood School and probably the Randall Junior High School—but this equipment, too, can not be used until appropriations for staff, book stock, and maintenance are secured. The room for a branch of the Public Library, fitted up in the new Eastern High School, has for two or three years remained idle and unused because no appropriations for stocking and maintenance have ever been granted. A five-year building and development program down up by library officials provides for northeast, Georgetown, and Connecticut Avenue branches, besides 21 branches in public-school buildings.

The past year has been one of great activity at the main library and branches. The library circulated into Washington homes and offices 1,092,533 volumes and 112,653 mounted pictures, or 1,205,186 pieces. In the central reference room 9,277 questions were recorded, including 761 telephone calls, and a very large number of questions were answered at the information desk in the lobby. Requests for information on technical and industrial subjects were handled in the industrial division.

The children's department, including the central children's room, the schools division, and Southeastern and Takoma Park children's rooms, shows a circulation of 536,906 volumes for the year, which is 49 per cent of the total library circulation. The children's department has developed as far as it can with the present personnel, equipment, and space available for it. The librarian in his annual report called attention to the fact that 10.9 per cent of the total funds of the District were spent for charities and corrections, while only 0.7 per cent was spent on the libraries of the District, and stresses the importance of good reading in the development of a child's mental ability and character. That classroom library work has become firmly established with the graded school-teachers is shown by the fact that last year 61,987 volumes were circulated from 602 classrooms in 133 schools, the total circulation being 295,486. According to this plan classrooms upon request are supplied with book collections carefully chosen to correspond to the age and special interests of each class. This service is being carried over to the junior high schools as they materialize; for many years the Public Library has met the demands of senior high-school librarians for supplementary reading. The Takoma Park, Southeastern, and Mount Pleasant branches are steadily increasing their book stocks, registration, and circulation, and directing their efforts to meet the special needs of their communities. Close cooperation between the schools and branches is seen.

The Army Alpha intelligence tests were given to a large part of the staff by the Bureau of Public Personnel Administration with the result that the staff was found to rank high in abstract intelligence.

The efficiency ratings of the library staff for the six months' period ended May 15 made in accordance with the regulations of the

Personnel Classification Board, showed that of the 112 employees rated, 15 stood above 90 per cent and nearly two-thirds of the staff stood above 80 per cent. The librarian calls attention to the fact that though the attainment of an efficiency rating of 70 per cent or over makes an employee eligible to the second step in a classification grade, not a single employee of the library could at the beginning of the current year be promoted above the minimum of his or her grade, because the appropriation for salaries is insufficient to make such promotions.

The library trustees and librarian have renewed their recommendation that the amendments to the library's organic act proposed a year ago and printed in the library report for 1924 be submitted to Congress at the coming session and that their enactment be urged to the end that the library may be furnished with a more modern charter and so be enabled to move more rapidly toward the goal of furnishing the people of the District adequate library service now denied to them.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The major and superintendent of police reports the authorized uniformed force as of June 30, 1925, as comprising a total of 1,153 members with 1 vacancy existing in the grade of private, this force being made up of the following grades:

Major and superintendent	1
Assistant superintendents	2
Inspectors	4
Captains	12
Lieutenants	21
Sergeants	56
Privates	1,018
Driver-privates	38
Vacancies in grade of private	1
Total	1,153

From this force are maintained 117 short-patrol and post-duty assignments, 39 special permanent-detail assignments, and 30 special-duty assignments, the remainder of the force being assigned to regular patrol and plain-clothes duty.

ACTIVITIES OF THE FORCE

The arrests for the period covered by this report totaled 76,021 as against 72,234 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1924, an increase of 3,787. Of this total, 43,161 were white and 32,860 colored. Of the total number arrested, 10,833 were under the age of 21 years, and of this number, 2,591 were under the age of 17 years, as against a total of 10,104 under the age of 21 years arrested during the previous year and 2,350 under 17 years of age arrested during the previous year, an increase in both instances, proportionate, however, to the general increase in the total number of arrests.

The arrests for felonies totaled 3,426 as compared with 3,165 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1924, an increase of 261.

It is again deemed advisable to present in this report comprehensive statistics relating to the crime of murder, the most serious of all

felonies, not only for the purpose of demonstrating the efficiency of the force in dealing with those and with other serious felonies, but in the hope that it will emphasize the need of adequate legislation dealing with the subject of carrying weapons, and I therefore submit herewith complete statistics containing data of absorbing interest with relation to the crime of murder, showing color and sex both of the victim and of the person committing the crime and the means used, together with similar data with reference to manslaughter cases with comparative figures for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1925:

MURDER

	1924	1925
Committed	29	31
Arrests made	28	38
Arrests made for murder committed 1924	0	1
Cases in which no arrests were made	2	1
Murderer committed suicide	3	2
Victims		
White	5	8
Colored	24	23
Male	18	25
Female	11	6
Committed by		
White	5	9
Colored	27	32
Male	26	35
Female	6	6
Means used		
Arsenic	1	0
Automobile	0	1
Axe	1	0
Blunt instrument	0	2
Cue stick	1	0
Brick	0	1
Cloth, strangled with	0	1
Gas	1	2
Knife	5	4
Pipe, iron	1	0
Means Used—Continued		
Poker	1	0
Razor	1	1
Revolver	16	18
Wrench	0	1
Shears	1	0

MANSLAUGHTER

	1924	1925
Committed	32	14
Arrests made	31	17
Victims		
Male	23	8
Female	9	6
White	20	10
Colored	12	4
Committed by		
Male	30	17
Female	1	0
White	15	13
Colored	16	4
Means used		
Brick	1	1
Elevator	1	1
Knife	1	0
Lamp	2	0
Motor vehicles	25	11
Revolver	1	0
Death caused by being forcibly held in a chair	0	1

LIQUOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Interesting figures are submitted indicative of the activity displayed by the force in the enforcement of the various laws concerning liquor:

Volstead law	1924	1925
Selling liquor	1,395	1,452
Illegal possession of liquor	1,826	2,949
Transporting liquor	890	1,181
Manufacturing liquor	26	41
Illegal possession of still	3	9
Destroying evidence in liquor cases	16	7
Maintaining a nuisance	23	28
Conspiracy in connection with liquor traffic	46	48
Second offense, bench warrants	5	2
Other sections	7	38
Total arrests Volstead law	4,239	5,738

Sheppard law	1924	1925
Intoxication	8,874	10,869
Operating a vehicle while intoxicated	655	712
Drinking in public	186	232
Total arrests Sheppard law	9,715	11,813

Liquor seized			
Alcohol	gallons	1,571	2,478
Brandy	do	22	75
Benedictine	do	------	4
Champagne	do	7	6
Cognac		5	73
Cordials	gallons	75	0
Gin	do	1,083	573
Home brew	do	13	0
Rum	do	11	27
Whisky	do	7,885	13,685
Alcoholic beverages, no name	do	0	0
Pela tonic	do	0	0
Malt	do	0	0
Cider	do	1,596	4,088
Wine	do	2,086	887
Total	do	14,354	21,892
Beer	barrel	0	20
Beer	bottles	4,162	4,486
Extracts	do	548	745
Mash	gallons	2,520	7,347
Stills		26	54

Vehicles seized		
Automobiles	144	295
Bicycles	3	1
Boats	0	0
Motor cycles	1	6
Wagons	2	3
Total number of vehicles	150	305

VICE REPRESSION

Similar activity has been displayed by the force in the enforcement of the gambling laws and the various laws relating to the suppression of vice as will be indicated by the following figures:

Arrests for—	1925	1924
Adultery	228	178
Fornication	949	891
Keeping bawdy house	9	14
Keeping disorderly house	205	194
Pandering	10	6
Soliciting prostitution	107	213
Vagrancy	297	203
Violation of the white slave traffic law	17	17
Making handbooks	56	32
Permitting gaming	320	310
Setting up a gambling table	11	9
Violation of lottery law	0	1
Violation of Harrison antinarcotic law	75	63
Total	2,283	2,134

SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION

A total of 141 privates, divided into six classes, were given intensive training and instruction in this school maintained by the department, the following subjects being covered thoroughly: City geography, District of Columbia Code of Law, police regulations, first aid to the injured, investigations and reports, Metropolitan police manual, evidence and court procedure, miscellaneous acts of Congress.

Pupils are also instructed as to the origin of government and of law, Constitution of the United States, powers of police officers, rights and privileges of citizens, attitude toward the public, and at the close of the term are required to pass a rigid mental test covering every phase of their studies during the preceding 30 days.

BOARD OF SURGEONS

The report of the Board of Police and Fire Surgeons indicates a gratifying decrease in the total absenteeism granted members of the force on account of illness and injury, a condition which is attributed in a large measure to the liberal and far-seeing attitude of the Congress in enacting legislation granting to members of the force one day off in each week of seven days in lieu of Sundays, and in the adoption by the department of administrative measures and policies having for their object the betterment of working conditions.

PROPERTY CLERK

The property clerk of the Metropolitan police department handled through his office property valued at $1,103.697.90.

IMPROVED WORKING CONDITIONS

The provisions of the act of Congress providing for one day off in each week of seven days in lieu of Sunday was made effective on February 8, 1925, it having been impossible to comply with such provision of law prior to that time because of failure of passage of the deficiency appropriation bill carrying the necessary appropriation to provide for the appointment of 165 additional members of the force necessary to the granting of such day off.

ELIMINATION OF RESERVE

On August 15, 1924, two central reserve units were established, one in the eastern and one in the western section of the city, the officers making up these reserve units being taken from the regular patrol force and assigned to this reserve duty fully equipped and ready to answer any call for their services, under which conditions members of the force now work only 8 hours out of each day of 24 hours, except for such additional time as they may be required to spend in court.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

The police department displayed its usual ability in coping with unusual situations in its arrangements for and handling of the great Holy Name parade, which occurred on September 18, 1924, and the world series baseball games which took place in the District of Columbia on October 4, 5, 9, and 10, 1924.

The first occasion witnessed the largest parade, from the viewpoint of numbers participating therein, which has occurred in Washington since the close of the Civil War. Approximately 100,000 men from all parts of the United States gathered in this city for the purpose of attending the Holy Name convention and participating in the parade.

The parade formed in the area east of the United States Capitol and proceeded via the Capitol Grounds, B, and First Streets to Pennsylvania Avenue; thence west to Fifteenth Street and south through Fifteenth Street to the Monument Grounds, the parade moving in mass formation, presenting one of the most remarkable sights ever witnessed on historic Pennsylvania Avenue. It was witnessed by many Government and church dignitaries from a reviewing stand at Fifteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW., and at the close of the parade the marchers and spectators to the total number of 150,000 assembled on the slopes of the Monument Grounds for short religious services and for an address by the President of the United States.

The assemblage, marching, and disbandment of this vast multitude was accomplished without an untoward incident due to the thorough and careful plans worked out and put into execution by the Metropolitan police force, the United States park police, and the parade committee.

The world series baseball games, played between Washington and New York, brought to the city thousands of visitors from various parts of the country. Policing of the lines which formed for the purchase of tickets and of the baseball park and the large area contiguous thereto was accomplished in accordance with very carefully worked out plans, and not an incident occurred during the entire series to mar the enjoyment of the spectators or to bring criticism from any source.

RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) *Police headquarters and central station.*—Attention is invited to the ever-growing need for the erection of a modern building to be used as a central police station and police headquarters, as it has become increasingly difficult for the police department to efficiently transact the important business of the department in its present cramped and insufficient quarters.

(2) *Additional precincts.*—Plans are going forward for the erection on Nicholson Street, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets NW., of what will be the thirteenth police precinct station house, the territory in such precinct to comprise the territory lying north of Buchanan Street, between Rock Creek on the west and Riggs Road on the east.

Recommendation is again made for the erection of a modern police station house in Tenleytown, where there is now maintained a sub-

station as part of the seventh police precinct command. The territory comprised therein is rapidly building up, has a large and ever-growing population, and an area of approximately 14¾ square miles, and it is essential to the efficient administration of the department that this subdistrict be created a full police precinct.

(3) *Garage and repair shop.*—Recommendation is again made for the erection of a modern up-to-date garage and repair shop to properly care for the constantly increasing fleet of motor vehicles used by the department.

(4) *Street railway crossing policemen.*—Attention is especially invited to the conditions as regards employment of special street railway crossing policemen, such policemen being required to pass the same tests as are applicants for appointment to the regular force and being entitled to all the privileges and immunities granted to members of the force; their salaries being paid by the street railway companies, and in view of the fact that the measure of service rendered by such police officers to such street railway companies is no greater than is the measure of service rendered by such street railway crossing officers to the general public, nor greater than the measure of service rendered by regular members of the force to such street railway companies, the condition set up is an inequitable one, and it is submitted that the salaries of such street railway crossing officers should be paid from public funds, the same as are the salaries of the members of the regular force.

(5) *Fugitive law.*—It is again recommended that Congress enact legislation regulating the purchase and possession of deadly weapons, and that legislation also be enacted granting to the authorities of the District of Columbia power to hold fugitives from other jurisdictions for a reasonable length of time.

(6) *Drug addiction and medical practice regulations.*—It is again recommended that legislation be enacted making drug addiction in the District of Columbia a felony, and that the medical practice act be amended so as to provide for adequate regulation of persons practicing as chiropractors and osteopaths and of all persons who attempt in any manner to treat disease, injury, or deformity.

DIRECTOR OF TRAFFIC

The office of the director of traffic was established by the act of Congress of March 3, 1925, and began operation March 25, 1925.

During the brief period preceding June 30 this new branch of the District government completed four outstanding accomplishments, which it is hoped will reduce accidents and facilitate traffic, namely:

First, the preparation of a modern code of traffic and registration regulations.

Second, the inauguration of a new and more rigid system for the issuance of motor vehicle operators' permits.

Third, the purchase of traffic signal lights to be installed at a number of important intersections on Sixteenth Street and on Massachusetts Avenue NW., and,

Fourth, the elimination of parking on the flow side on congested sections of certain arterial highways during the morning and afternoon rush hours.

Many essential features of the old traffic regulations were included in the code, and several recommendations of the Hoover Conference on Street and Highway Safety and the United States Bureaus of Standards and Public Roads were also adopted with a view of standardizing the regulations so that they might serve as a model to other jurisdictions. Through the cooperation of the police department and the traffic court, these regulations are being strictly enforced.

ISSUANCE OF OPERATORS' PERMITS

In an effort to eliminate incompetent and reckless automobile drivers a plan for the issuance of operators' permits has been devised and put into operation. This provides a rigid mental test on the regulations and a practical demonstration of ability to drive. If these tests are satisfactorily passed, a 10-day temporary permit is granted, during which time the police department investigates the person's character and checks the information given in the application. If the captain of the precinct in which the person resides approves, the permit is then issued.

REVOCATION OF PERMITS

Serious violations of the regulations are systematically followed by revocation of the operators' permits for a period of not less than six months. Such action follows certification by the court as provided in the traffic act. This has had a most salutary effect upon chronic speeders, reckless and drunken drivers.

SYNCHRONIZED ELECTRIC TRAFFIC LIGHTS

The first set of traffic lights was purchased for installation on Sixteenth Street, from Lafayette Square to Florida Avenue, and on Massachusetts Avenue, NW., from Twelfth to Eighteenth Streets. It is believed that these signals will serve to promote safety and expedite traffic, and that the system should be extended as far as funds can be provided for the purpose.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

It would be unreasonable to expect an appreciable decrease in traffic accidents within the short period from May to June, inclusive, but the results during this period were encouraging, especially since there had been an increase of 27 per cent in motor-car registration during the year. Comparison of traffic accidents for the period from May 3, 1925, when the new regulations became effective, to June 30, 1925, is as follows:

May 3, 1925, to June 30, 1925		*May 3, 1925, to June 30, 1925*	
Fatal accidents	11	Fatal accidents	16
Serious injuries	9	Serious injuries	4
Minor injuries	1,610	Minor injuries	1,604

Increase in automobile registration

Total registered, Jan. 1, 1924, to June 30, 1924	75,482
Total registered, Jan. 1, 1925, to June 30, 1925	95,806
Percentage of increase	27

There has been no appreciable increase in the total number of accidents, and a definite decrease in fatalities during this period. Since May 3 a close check has been maintained on all accidents to ascertain their cause and location. Accident spot maps, diagram charts and tabulating punch cards serve as valuable guides in proper regulation of traffic.

TRAFFIC COURT

The establishment of the traffic court, in session from 9 a. m. to 11 p. m. every week day, has made it possible to abolish the collateral system heretofore in use. The fact that all traffic offenders must now face the traffic judge instead of depositing a sum of money which could be forfeited has had the effect of reducing the number of violations and arrests. There were 521 less arrests in August, 1925, than in August 1924, although there were 292 more police officers on the streets.

ARTERIAL OR BOULEVARD HIGHWAYS

The system of arterial or boulevard highways authorized in the traffic act has been tentatively designated. It comprises the main trunk highways leading from the congested district to the Maryland and Virginia boundaries. "Stop" signs are being painted on the pavement at all intersecting highways as fast as the limited force and funds will permit. These signs will be supplemented as soon as possible by markers erected on posts adjacent to all intersections on boulevard stop streets.

PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Elimination of all parking on the flow sides of certain congested sections of the more important arterial highways, such as Sixteenth Street and Connecticut Avenue, has had the effect of widening those streets from one to two traffic lanes, thus facilitating the traffic flow during the rush hours and reducing the possibility of accidents.

Efforts have been made to improve parking conditions in the congested area but inasmuch as there are nearly 100,000 cars in Washington, and only space enough in the congested district for about 7,200, the problem is exceedingly difficult to solve.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Renewal of operators' permits.—The director believes that if he is clothed with ample authority to suspend and revoke permits there will be no need for annual renewal of all drivers' permits. The director therefore recommends that this section of the traffic act be stricken out. If Congress is of the opinion that permits be renewed annually he suggests that certain changes be made in the act so that such permits may be issued at intervals throughout the year, and renew such permits as they expire one year from date of issuance. This will make it possible to accomplish the task with a smaller force of employees and with less congestion. This method is followed in Massachusetts and Rhode Island and makes it possible

to organize a permanent clerical force and to more carefully examine the applications. It will be impossible to undertake this task, however, until adequate funds are provided for clerical assistance.

Card record.—In order that the past records of all drivers may be immediately available, it is advisable that a modern card-record equipment and necessary clerks to operate same be provided.

Permits.—The director believes it is desirable for the safety of the public, that the traffic act be amended to require drivers of all vehicles, including the drivers of horse-drawn vehicles, motormen on street cars, and operators of road rollers and traction engines to secure operators' permits.

Revocation and suspension of drivers' licenses.—The director of traffic believes he should be given more liberal authority in the act to revoke and suspend operators' permits. In nearly all States the authorities are given more or less discretion in this matter. The law gives the director authority "after proper hearing," to suspend or revoke permits, but provides no such authority in regard to violation of sections of the act itself.

Notations on permits.—The director recommends that the traffic act should require the police court to make notations of major infractions of the law on the back of operators' permits.

Reckless driving.—Section 9 of the act should be amended so as to more clearly define reckless driving.

Prosecution of traffic violations.—The act should be so amended as to provide that all traffic violations with the exception of section 11 of the act of Congress, March 3, 1925, be prosecuted by the corporation counsel. The present system of having certain violations prosecuted by the corporation counsel and others by the United States attorney is not calculated to produce the best results.

Traffic surveys.—Preliminary traffic counts, statistical data, and traffic-flow maps have been prepared. This work is of inestimable value and should be continued and kept up to date. Additional funds for this important work should be provided.

Revolving fund.—It is suggested by the director of traffic that all funds received for the issuance of permits, for registration of automobiles, etc., should be set apart for support of the work of the traffic department, including purchase of automatic traffic lights, signals, signs, etc., and the employment of the necessary staff of traffic specialists, and also to pay the clerks who are employed in issuing automobile registrations and drivers' permits. The estimated receipts from these sources are as follows:

130,000 registrations at $1 each	$130,000
150,000 renewals of permits at $1 each	150,000
20,000 permits to new operators at $2 each	40,000
8,000 duplicate permits at 50 cents each	4,000
Total	324,000

Certificate of title law.—It is believed that the adoption of a certificate of title law for automobiles, similar to that which has been adopted in 20 or more States, will effectually destroy the market

for stolen cars in the District. This requires that every car owner secure and have in his possession a certificate proving his ownership to the car in question. Upon sale of the machine the owner makes an assignment of title by indorsing the certificate over to the purchaser. The usual fee charged for a certificate is $1.

Financial responsibility.—Suggestions have been made that all motorists be required to establish their financial responsibility by providing themselves with public liability and property damage insurance.

As a substitute and more desirable plan the director of traffic suggests he be authorized to suspend the permit of any motorist who is unable to satisfy a judgment involving injury to persons or property until such judgment is satisfied. This, he believes, would have the effect of forcing many motorists, technically irresponsible, to settle judgments and bring about a greater degree of caution on the part of such persons because of the possibility of losing their driving permits.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE LOSS

The commissioners are gratified to report that the annual fire loss in the District of Columbia was again reduced during the fiscal year 1925. The total estimated loss, $837,196, is a decrease of $184,235 from the amount of the loss during the preceding year.

Alarms numbered 2,878, an increase of 208 over the number received during 1924. The number of false alarms received, 227, is 51 less than the number received during the preceding 12 months.

FIRE PREVENTION

The department has continued its fire-prevention work, and the reduction in fire loss may, it is believed, be attributed in no small degree to this agency. The usual inspection work and supervision over the storage and sale of highly inflammable materials was maintained.

The importance of fire prevention was again brought forcibly to the attention of the citizens of the District of Columbia by the activities of a committee appointed by the commissioners to provide for a proper observance of fire-prevention week.

DISCIPLINE

Discipline in the department has been uniformly good. But four members were removed for infractions of the rules and regulations and minor cases numbered only 116.

POLICEMEN AND FIREMEN'S RELIEF FUND

Seventeen members of the department were retired and granted pensions. Seven widows of deceased firemen or pensioners were also granted relief.

DEATHS

During the year the department lost three of its active members, Capt. J. R. Steeke, Private J. W. Hurdle, and Private T. E. Copeland. The death of the following pensioners also occurred: E. F. Shugrue, G. G. Warren, C. A. Kreamer, C. E. Harper, and C. F. Burke. These men were faithful public servants, and their deaths were a distinct loss to the community.

HORSES

On June 15, 1925, the last three horses in service were retired and transferred to the custody of the superintendent of the Home for the Aged and Infirm, for service at Blue Plains. All fire apparatus in active service is now motor driven.

RESCUE SQUAD

On January 20, 1925, the department placed in service in No. 2 engine house, Twelfth Street, between G and H Streets NW., its first rescue squad. The officers and members thereof have been thoroughly trained in first-aid work, and after having passed most rigid examinations in all branches of life saving were awarded diplomas by the Red Cross.

Since its installation the squad has rendered most efficient and valuable service, and has filled a long-felt need in the department.

NEW HOUSES

Under authority of the appropriation act for the fiscal year 1925 contracts have been entered into for the erection of No. 29 engine house, Conduit Road and Reservoir Street NW., and No. 13 truck house, Florida Avenue and Orren Street NE. These houses will probably be completed before winter, and the companies will be placed in service promptly, personnel and apparatus having been provided for.

These two companies will greatly improve the protection afforded their localities, which heretofore have lacked fire companies in such close proximity as to provide the quick response necessary to efficient fire extinguishing.

NEW APPARATUS

The following new apparatus has been purchased and placed in service:

One 85-foot aerial hook and ladder truck, No. 6 truck house, Park Road, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets NW.

One 1,000-gallon triple combination pumping engine, No. 11 engine house, Fourteenth Street, between Irving and Kenyon Streets NW.

One 750-gallon triple combination pumping engine, No. 3 engine house, New Jersey Avenue, between D and E Streets NW.

One 750-gallon triple combination pumping engine, No. 7 engine house, R Street, between Ninth and Tenth Streets NW.

One five-passenger automobile, Packard, No. 3 truck house, Fourteenth Street and Ohio Avenue NW.

One auto truck equipped with a 350-gallon gasoline tank, to be used for supplying fuel to pumping engines on the fire ground, is now on order, and will be received in the near future.

SEVENTH DAY OFF

On January 24, 1924, the commissioners began the allowance of one day off each week to the officers and members of the department. The system adopted for allowing this leave is working satisfactorily, and the commissioners are advised that its results have been excellent, both from the standpoint of the personnel and from that of the administration of the department. This privilege was granted by act of Congress approved May 27, 1924.

REPORT OF HEALTH OFFICER

POPULATION

The population of the District of Columbia is steadily and rapidly increasing, as shown by the figures of the United States Bureau of the Census. The estimated white population is 368,915, the colored 118,021, and the total 486,936.

VITAL STATISTICS

Deaths.—The total number of deaths during the calendar year 1924 was 6,553, a decrease, as compared with the previous year, of 552. The general death rate decreased from 14.93 in the year 1923 to 13.46 in the year just closed. This reduction in the death rate was due principally to the lesser number of deaths from pneumonia last year than in the year preceding. The total number of deaths from pneumonia in 1923 was 1,015, while in the year just closed there were 741 deaths from that cause.

On December 5, 1924, the following regulations were promulgated by the commissioners and became actively operative at once:

REGULATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF PNEUMONIA IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DECEMBER 5, 1924.

Ordered, That the following regulations are hereby adopted to provide for the prevention of the spread of pneumonia in the District of Columbia, effective on and after December 5, 1924.

SECTION 1. That pneumonia (lobar and broncho) is hereby declared to be a communicable disease reportable and quarantinable in the District of Columbia.

SEC. 2. That it shall be the duty of every physician or other person in charge of any patient in the District of Columbia, who is suffering from pneumonia, within 24 hours after becoming aware of the existence of that disease, to send to the health officer of said District a certificate written in ink, and signed by such person, stating the name, age, sex, and color of the person suffering therefrom, and setting forth by street and number or other sufficient designation, the location of the house, room, or other place in which said patient can be found. When said patient recovers or dies, said person in charge, as soon as possible thereafter, shall send to the health officer of said District a certificate to that effect.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the person in charge of any patient in the District of Columbia suffering from pneumonia, if said person has power and authority so to do, to adopt the following precautions to prevent the spread of the disease:

(*a*) To promptly isolate the patient, as thoroughly as practicable from all other persons who are not suffering from the same disease, and who are not necessarily in attendance upon the patient, and to maintain such isolation until the recovery or death of the patient.

(*b*) To disinfect as promptly as practicable each and every article used by or about the patient. All knives, forks, spoons, glasses, cups, and plates used by the patent immediately after the removal from the sick room to be disinfected by boiling or immersion in some disinfecting solution approved by the attending physician.

(*c*) No bedclothes or other article used by the patient shall be sent into any public laundry unless and until it has been boiled or properly disinfected by immersion in some approved disinfecting solution.

(*d*) Upon the termination of quarantine, the sick room and contents must be thoroughly cleaned, aired, and all woodwork scrubbed before it is again used.

SEC. 4. Any person who violates any of the provisions of these regulations shall be punished upon conviction thereof by a fine of not less than $10 nor more than $40 for each offense.

By order of the Board of Commissioners, D. C.

DANIEL E. GARGES,
Secretary of the Board.

From the time the regulations were put into effect to June 30, 1925, 867 cases with 410 deaths therefrom were reported.

These regulations have not been in force a sufficient length of time to determine what, if any, influence they have had on the incidence of the disease or the mortality therefrom. It is hoped that before the next annual report is due it may be possible to advance an intelligent opinion on the subject.

Of the total of 6,553 deaths from all causes during the calendar year 1924, 4,140 were white and 2,413 colored. The white rate declined from 12.37 in 1923 to 11.22 last year and the colored from 22.82 to 20.44.

Organic heart disease, with its 731 deaths; pneumonia, 701; tuberculosis, 560; apoplexy, 527; and Bright's disease, 541, constituted the most potent causes of death during the year.

Births.—The total number of births reported during the calendar year 1924 was 9,357, a increase over the preceding year of 328.

Infant mortality.—The death rate of infants under 1 year of age was lower during the calendar year 1924 than during any other year in the history of the health department. The rate for white infants was 61.1 for every 1,000 babies born, the colored 109.2, and the general rate 75.7. This is a very gratifying showing.

Rabies.—Rabies is still prevalent in the District. During the calendar year 1924, 67 dogs were reported to the health department as being rabid. Post-mortem examination of these dogs at the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Agriculture Department, showed 20 to be suffering from rabies at the time of death. A total of 33 persons were bitten during the year.

On June 13, 1924, the commissioners issued the usual proclamation requiring the muzzling of all dogs running at large. This order became effective July 1, 1924, to continue for a period of three months.

ADMINISTRATION—BUREAU OF PREVENTABLE DISEASES

The contagious-disease service handled a total of 5,438 cases during the fiscal year, as follows: Tuberculosis, 1,383; scarlet fever, 1,058; chickenpox, 826; measles, 760; whooping cough, 548; diphtheria, 547; typhoid fever, 171; smallpox, 65; influenza, 55; infantile paralysis, 20; epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis, 5.

Smallpox.—During the calendar year 1924, 147 cases were reported, most of which were of a mild type and among the colored

race. None of the cases reported had ever been successfully vaccinated.

In the month of January, 1925, however, the District was invaded with a very malignant type of the disease. The first of the cases came to the attention of the health department January 10, 1925, and was located in a large rooming house in the northwest section of the city. Subsequently 5 other cases occurred in the same building, 2 of which died. From that time to June 30, 1925, a total of 59 cases with 20 deaths occurred.

The vaccination history of these 59 cases demonstrated the value of vaccination as a preventative of the disease. Only four of the 59 patients had ever been successfully vaccinated—one about 50 years prior to the attack, one 38 years, one 18 years, and the fourth 14 years before. All of these four cases were of a very mild type and made a prompt recovery.

The right to require vaccination of persons who had been exposed to smallpox was challenged by a group of chiropractors who were residents of and maintained a school of chiropractic in a building from which a case of smallpox had been removed. Application for a writ of habeas corpus was denied, trial in the police court resulted in conviction, and an appeal to the District Court of Appeals sustained the proceedings in the lower court. The validity of the law relating to vaccination in the District was therefore clearly upheld.

Smallpox hospital.—This institution was in active operation 225 days during the fiscal year and 64 patients were cared for. The total number of patient days rendered was 1,273, and the average stay of each patient was 19.9 days.

Quarantine station.—This institution was in active operation 149 days during the fiscal year and cared for 96 inmates. The total number of inmate days was 683, and the average stay of each inmate was 7 days.

Leper hospital.—This building was not in active operation during the year, there being no lepers found in this District.

Ambulance service.—The motor ambulance removed a total of 499 patients during the year.

Diphtheria.—This disease was not as prevalent as during the preceding year nor was the death rate as high. In 1923 there were 565 cases with 42 deaths, while last year only 398 cases with 30 deaths. Pupils in the public schools and other institutions to the number of 4,444 were given the "Schick" test and immunized against the disease by the administration of toxin-antitoxin. This work will be continued during the coming year if necessary funds can be found available.

Scarlet fever.—There was an increase in the number of reported cases from 993 in the year 1923 to 1,260 last year. Eight cases terminated in death.

Typhoid fever.—The calendar year 1924 showed an increase of 10 in the number of reported cases over the preceding year. Of the total number reported 24 cases were brought into the District from other jurisdictions for treatment in the local hospitals.

Forty-two other cases seemed to have contracted the disease outside of the District and returned to their homes in the city, sick or were taken sick shortly after returning.

Isolation wards.—Attention is again called to the urgent need for the erection of a suitable isolation building for the care and treatment of persons suffering from minor contagious diseases. Something should be done at the earliest date possible to secure a new and modern structure.

Disinfecting service.—During the fiscal year 1925, 1,940 premises were disinfected as follows: Diphtheria, 416; scarlet fever, 950; smallpox, 62; tuberculosis, 500; poliomyelitis, 8; miscellaneous, 4.

Public crematorium.—Four hundred and sixty-two bodies were cremated during the fiscal year; 33 adults, 157 infants, and 272 stillborn babies.

The total cost of maintaining the crematory during the year was $1,972.66. The amount collected from private cremations was $400. In view of the very limited appropriation for the maintenance of the crematory, private cremations have been discontinued. The cost of private cremations must of course come out of the appropriation for maintaining the institution. The fees collected for these private cremations is, however, turned into the Treasury, and the health department derives no benefit therefrom. It seems to me that the amount collected from private cremations should be placed to the credit of the institution so that such fees could be utilized in the proper maintenance of the plant.

Bacteriological laboratory.—A total of 17,616 specimens of all kinds were examined during the year.

In the early part of the calendar year 1925 an unusual number of cases of typhoid fever occurred in several of the large cities, which lead to the belief that a contamination of the oyster supply was responsible. The health department collected and examined in the bacteriological laboratory over 300 samples of oysters purchased at different places throughout the District. The examinations, however, failed to show that the local oyster supply was polluted.

Bathing pools.—All bathing pools in the District have as heretofore been closely supervised during the year to see that the water in these pools was safe for bathing purposes. Samples of water were taken at frequent intervals and examined in the bacteriological laboratory.

Serological laboratory.—Six thousand three hundred and fourteen specimens of all kinds were examined during the fiscal year, as follows: Wassermann test, 4,890: smears for gonorrhea, 1,399; diphtheria antitoxin, 10; and smallpox vaccine, 25.

Chemical laboratory.—Ten thousand seven hundred and twenty-two samples of all kinds were examined during the year, as follows: Drugs, 29; foods, 10,389; water, 132; air, 130; for police department, 29; and for the coroner, 13.

Wells and water supplies.—A very close supervision has been had over the public water supply, and a similar supervision has been maintained over the water supply furnished by common carriers for drinking purposes. During the year 1,226 samples of water from private wells were examined.

Milk and cream.—On February 27, 1925, "An act to regulate within the District of Columbia the sale of milk, cream, and ice cream, and for other purposes" was approved. The passage of this act, in my opinion, gives to the people of the District one of the best

laws for the control of the public milk supply that has been enacted in any place in this country.

DISPENSARIES

Tuberculosis division.—During the fiscal year 820 new patients were admitted. Of this number 216 were found to be postive, 245 negative, and in the 359 cases, diagnosis was not definitely determined. The total number of visits made by all patients was 7,293, an increase of 757 over the preceding year.

The nurses made 4,473 visits to the homes of patients. One thousand and forty-nine X-ray pictures were taken. Of the 216 positive cases admitted to the clinic during the year, 54 were in the incipient stage, 128 moderately advanced, and 34 far advanced; 52 of the patients were under 15 years of age.

Venereal disease division.—During the year 2,322 new patients were admitted. The total number of visits made to the clinic by all patients was 14,970, an increase of 2,445 over the preceding year. Four thousand and forty-two injections of Arsphenamine were given. Of the new patients admitted during the year 406 were under 15 years of age, 34 of these being under 5 years of age.

On February 26, 1925, Congress passed "An act for the prevention of venereal diseases in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes." This act is one difficult of enforcement, but it is hoped it will receive the hearty support of the medical profession and the public generally.

Medical and dental inspection of public schools.—A detailed report covering the operations of the medical and dental inspection service, including the work performed by the school nurses is, as usual, embodied in the report of the Board of Education.

A total of 8,251 visits were made to school buildings, and 154 visits to the homes of certain pupils were made during the school term; 48,254 examinations of pupils were made; 2,989 pupils were excluded for various causes; 2,614 kindergarten and first-grade pupils were physically examined, with the result that 91.5 per cent were found to have some physical defect. It is evident that a large percentage of the pupils entering the public schools in the kindergarten and first grades are handicapped by physical defects.

In view of the information obtained from this limited number of pupils examined, it is urgent that a much larger force of medical and dental examiners and nurses be provided, in order that at least all children entering the public schools of this District may be examined on entrance to school and such physical defects as may be found corrected.

Of 183 retarded pupils examined mentally and physically to determine the advisability of segregation in special schools, 60.8 per cent were recommended for segregation and 3.6 per cent were found noneducable and recommended for exclusion from school.

As a result of the health department's efforts to secure the immunization against diphtheria of as many school children as possible, 2,655 were given the "Schick" test and toxin-antitoxin administered in susceptible cases where the consent of the parent was obtained.

Dental inspection.—The dental inspectors examined 19,391 pupils and found 22.4 per cent without defect. The dental prophylactic operators treated 6,784 pupils during the year. More dental inspectors are needed; 4,177 pupils were treated at the four dental clinics during the year.

School nurses.—Ten thousand five hundred and five pupils having physical defects of some kind were handled by the school nurses during the year. A larger corps of nurses is needed to properly carry on the work and it is hoped some provision will be made for an increased number.

Bureau of food inspection.—The total number of inspections made by the food inspectors during the fiscal year was 90,756; 3,735 food-producing and vending establishments were registered at the close of the year; 1,570 dairy farms with cattle to the number of 31,265 producing milk for the District of Columbia were also registered at the close of the year.

Slaughterhouses.—Six thousand two hundred and eighty-four cattle, 4,443 sheep, 3,092 calves, and 26,025 hogs were inspected during the year at the various slaughter houses in the District.

Bureau of sanitary inspection.—A total of 7,172 complaints were acted upon during the fiscal year. These complaints necessitated a total of 10,971 inspections and 21,376 reinspections to be made. The total number of visits of all kinds made by the sanitary inspectors was approximately 77,710.

Violations of the law and regulations for the prevention and abatement of nuisances were reported in 12,547 instances; 369 cases, exclusive of the smoke law, were referred for prosecution resulting in fines and forfeitures amounting to $662.

Five hundred and eighty-seven nonresident owners of property were notified under the assessment system to abate certain nuisances on their property. In 47 instances the owners failed to comply and the District caused the abatement of the nuisance and assessed the cost against the property.

Special effort was again made to further improve the sanitary condition of the houses located in the public alleys throughout the city. As a result of this effort 1,979 nuisances were found and the abatement thereof secured.

Smoke inspection.—A total of 10,237 observations were made by the smoke inspectors during the year. In 826 instances violations of the law were observed. Prosecution was instituted in 100 cases resulting in fines and forfeitures amounting to $1,030.

The one inspector assigned to smoke inspection is detailed from the regular corps of sanitary inspectors. It is, of course, impossible for this one man to actively enforce compliance with the smoke law and it is urgent that more inspectors be provided for this service.

Eight-hour female labor law.—Nineteen hundred and forty-four establishments coming within the purview of the eight-hour female labor law, employing an estimated number of 12,035 women, were registered at the close of the fiscal year.

During the year 106 complaints were received and acted upon. Seventeen cases were referred to corporation counsel for prosecution, resulting in the payment of fines amounting to $270.

Child hygiene service.—The health department continued to operate as heretofore five child hygiene centers. During the year 1,791

new children were admitted to the centers. The total number of visits made by children to the five welfare stations was 18,551, and the nurses made 12,476 visits to the homes of children.

The Child Welfare Society, which has been conducting welfare stations at 2100 G Street NW. and at the Freedmen's Hospital, having decided to discontinue the operation of these stations, the health department, through arrangements with the ladies of the society, agreed to assume responsibility for and to operate these two stations from and after July 1, 1925. The total number of stations operated by the health department will then be seven.

Day nurseries.—During the fiscal year 31 applications for permits to maintain boarding homes for children were received. In 27 instances a permit was recommended, and in the remaining 4 instances recommendation was made that no permit be issued on account of certain unsatisfactory conditions found to exist.

Pound service.—Animals to the number of 6,096 were received at the pound during the fiscal year, 4,416 being dogs, 59 horses, 6 mules, 1 cow, and 1,614 cats. Dogs to the number of 3,002 were captured while running at large contrary to law, and 1,078 were surrendered by the owners to be killed.

Bureau of administration.—During the year 9,950 letters and 5,992 oral complaints were received; 12,977 letters were sent out by the department and 1,772 special reports handled and filed.

Bureau of vital statistics.—Nine thousand two hundred and seventy-seven births, 482 stillbirths, and 6,743 deaths were recorded during the year; 2,236 transcripts from the records of deaths and births were issued.

BOARD OF CHARITIES

The report of the Board of Charities reviews the work of the penal, charitable and correctional institutions and agencies.

Substantial progress in the erection of the new reformatory buildings is reported. There are now 6 buildings completed and 10 under construction. The first new building at the workhouse has been completed. This institution has thus far been housed in temporary wooden buildings, and the work of construction of permanent buildings was begun last year.

The crowded conditions still prevail at the jail in spite of every effort to secure early trials and to send convicted persons as soon as possible to the institutions to which they are designated.

The most notable event during the year was the opening of the District Training School at Annapolis Junction, Md. This is the new institution for the care and training of the feeble-minded children. It is located on a beautiful tract of land of 827 acres lying midway between Baltimore and Washington adjoining Camp Meade reservation. The school has had 10 or 12 large boys since last spring and the farm has been worked with good results. Sufficient produce to aid substantially in the maintenance of the school during the coming winter was grown. The farm colony building has been completed and the school is now prepared to accommodate about 40 boys. Work on the permanent buildings is progressing satisfactorily and the school should be able to accommodate approximately 200 children by the first of the next fiscal year. Additional

appropriations are urgently needed to enlarge the capacity of the school to at least 500.

Appropriations to continue the work of erection of new buildings at the Gallinger Municipal Hospital are recommended. The new structures thus far erected have made suitable provision for the psychopathis department only. The general hospital, medical and surgical departments are still housed in old wooden structures that are not only inadequate but are a positive reproach.

The new building for nurses' home at the tuberculosis hospital has been completed and occupied.

The report covering public care of dependent children is set forth at length and in detail in the report of the Board of Children's Guardians. With an increased staff this board has been able to do more thorough work in investigation and in placement and supervision of children.

There is great need for additional cottages at the Industrial Home School for Colored Children and an especially urgent need for some provision for the care of wayward colored girls who do not need the more rigorous discipline of the National Training School. There is also need for better facilities for industrial training at the colored school.

The only notable change in population of the charitable and correctional institutions noted is the very rapid increase in population at the workhouse during the summer of 1925, owing, it is believed, in large measure, to jail sentences imposed upon violators of the traffic regulations.

BOARD OF CHILDREN'S GUARDIANS

During the past year the Board of Children's Guardians has cared for 2,152 children, an increase of 106 over the preceding year; 449 children were committed during the year by the juvenile court, as compared with 222 for 1923 and 404 for 1924. On June 30 the board had 1,693 wards under guardianship. The board adheres to the policy that for the normal child the best substitute for the natural home is a selected, supervised foster home, less than 14 per cent of its wards being in institutions. A total of 26,202 visits and interviews in the interest of the wards were made during the year by the social workers of the staff.

Staff physician and physicians of Children's Hospital made 2,450 physical examinations. As a matter of policy every ward is given such an examination at least once a year. Ten major and 99 minor operations were performed on wards. Complete dental treatment was given to 463 children. Out of the 2,152 wards cared for during the year only 8 deaths occurred.

Seven hundred ninety-seven investigations involving 1,541 children were made by the investigating department in the interest of child protection and prevention of cruelty to children. In each of these cases complaint had been made by some citizen or organization that the welfare of the child or children involved was so jeopardized as to demand public protection. However, it was necessary to secure court commitments in only 121 cases involving 214 children, the policy of the board being to recommend separation of children from parents by court only as a last resort and when the welfare of the

child is so seriously jeopardized as to demand immediate removal from the home.

During the year 697 applications have been made for children to board, adopt, or to care for free of charge, with guardianship remaining in the board. After careful investigation the board approved less than 20 per cent of the total number of homes offered. This fact indicates the care with which foster homes are selected for the public wards.

The board needs an additional appropriation of $15,000 for board and care of children. An institution for delinquent colored girls is greatly needed. A temporary receiving home and a psychologist are among the other urgent needs.

ALIENIST

Under the direction of the alienist, 2,353 cases were examined and treated in the psychopathic department of Gallinger Hospital during the year, which was a decrease of 48 cases compared with the preceding year.

At St. Elizabeths Hospital 597 such cases were examined prior to their appearance in court.

The alienist appeared in court 42 days during the year for the trial of lunacy cases.

VETERINARY SURGEON

There was no unusual amount of sickness and injuries generally in the animals owned by the District of Columbia during the year. Those reported or found sick have been treated either at their stable or at the city refuse hospital; 400 hogs were treated as a preventative against hog cholera; 40 horses and mules were examined and purchased for the various departments; 104 horses and mules were transferred from one department to another where their services were more suitable or needed. Five horses were destroyed to prevent suffering, as they were of no value and incurable; 20 horses and mules died of natural causes; 45 horses and mules which were of no further use to the District of Columbia were sold.

There were on hand in the veterinary department 505 mules and horses, whose general condition is good.

THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

The board held three meetings during the year, at which three applicants applied for license to practice veterinary medicine in the District of Columbia, one of whom passed and two failed.

Receipts and disbursements

Balance June 30, 1924	$60.84
Fees from applicants for license to practice	30.00
Total	90.84
Expenses	5.85
Balance	84.99

CORONER

The coroner states that during the year he made investigations to determine the causes of death as follows: Natural causes, 1,154; accidental, 311; suicides, 74; homicides, 57; a total of 1,596. Autopsies performed, 178: inquests held, 155.

Expenses

Gas lighting	$2.21
Electric light and power for refrigerating plant	48.00
Fuel	146.71
Printing and supplies	62.18
Repairs to morgue	600.00
Ice (discontinued after May 1, 1925)	91.29
Laundry	10.79
Upkeep of automobile truck	105.97
Autopsies	1,230.00
Witness fees	512.50
Jurors' fees	2,124.00
Taking testimony	775.00
Disinterment	20.00
Refrigerating plant	5,000.00
Total	10,728.65

BOARD OF PHARMACY

During the year eight regular and one special meetings were held for the conduct of business. Four regular examinations were held and as the results thereof license to practice pharmacy in the District of Columbia was granted to 28 applicants. Twenty-six applications were received for license to practice pharmacy through reciprocity with other jurisdictions; all received favorable consideration.

The register shows the following licenses:

Series A	542
Series B	217
Series C	481
Total	1,240

Seventeen permits were renewed for the sale of poisons for use in the arts, and as insecticides; two original permits were issued for the same use.

The treasurer's books as audited show the following:

Receipts

Balance in bank at last audit	$487.13
Cash on hand	66.50
Total receipts from fees	1,360.50
Total	1,914.13

Disbursements

Five members of the board, $109 each	$545.00
Clerical services	250.00
Postage	10.00
Engrossing certificates	19.00
Janitor's service	14.00
Premium, treasurer's bond	5.00

Dues, national association, boards pharmacy	$25.00
Delegate to convention	50.00
Mimeographing	48.00
Supplies	111.27
Outstanding check paid	7.50
Cash book balance	748.86
Cash on hand	80.50
Total	1,914.13

BOARD OF MEDICAL SUPERVISORS

During the year the board of medical supervisors examined 116 applicants for license to practice medicine in the District of Columbia, 73 of whom were passed, 10 failed, 5 rejected, 6 withdrawn, and 22 under consideration.

Twenty-eight applications were made for licenses under the provisions of the law providing for reciprocity with other jurisdictions, 23 of which were granted.

Receipts and disbursements

Balance on hand July 1, 1924	$2,219.20
Total receipts during the fiscal year, as shown by cashbook	2,189.23
Outstanding check	50.00
	4,458.43
Total disbursements during the fiscal year	2,499.84
Balance on hand June 30, 1925	1,958.59
	4,458.43

Of the unobligated balance of $1,958.59, shown above, the following distributions for services were made:

Secretary-treasurer	$600.00
Members of the board of medical supervisors	977.50
Members of the board of medical examiners	277.50
	1,955.00

Leaving an unobligated balance of $3.59 in the hands of the treasurer of the board.

BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

During the year the board licensed 29 dentists, conditioned 5, failed 11, and licensed 23 oral hygienists. Of the 23 oral hygienists, 5 were regularly examined and 18 registered in accordance with the act of Congress permitting the registration of those hygienists who had been engaged in the practice of their profession for two years prior to the passage of the act. Dental hygienists are permitted only to clean the teeth of patients under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist and to perform no other operation. They perform a service to the public which the board believes is desirable, and especially are they needed in school work. Dr. J. A. Murphy, chief medical inspector of public schools, informed the board that during the past year the four dental hygienists employed in the public schools gave prophylactic treatment to 6,784 school children, a work which would not have been done without these workers; 496 white

dentists, 72 colored dentists and oral hygienists were registered as of July 1, 1925.

Receipts

Balance on hand July 9, 1924, amount received from Doctor Hawley	$355.15
Duplicate licenses: 36 at $5 and 1 at $1	181.00
Oral hygienists: 19 at $10, 20 at $1, for certificates	210.00
Annual registration: 525 dentists at $1, 25 oral hygienists at $1, 3 dentists at $5, penalty for registering too late	565.00
Examinations: 18 for January examination at $20.25, 10 certificates at $1; 27 for June examination at $20.25, 3 oral hygienists for June examination at $10.25	952.00
Bulletins: 4 at $1	4.00
Total received	2,267.15

Disbursements

Compensation to members of board for regular and special meetings	$680.00
Secretary-treasurer, additional compensation	74.76
Clerk's salary	590.00
Inspection services	151.50
Miscellaneous	401.74
Total disbursements	1,898.00
Balance July 1, 1925	369.15

THE NURSES' EXAMINING BOARD

The nurses' examining board held 12 meetings during the year and 2 examinations for the registration of nurses; 237 nurses took the examination. Of this number 209 passed and 28 failed. Four nurses were registered through reciprocity and two under the waiver. The majority of the training schools have been much improved and a notable betterment has resulted, as appears in the recent examinations which the nurses have taken.

The financial report is as follows:

Receipts

Balance on hand	$96.84
Fees collected	1,178.66
Interest	7.40
From Graduate Nurses' Association	272.50
Total	1,555.40

Expenditures

Fees refunded	$45.00
Stationery and printing	125.25
Rent of office	60.00
Engrossing of certificates	120.50
Advertising examinations	7.20
Supplies for examinations	41.55
Back salaries	272.50
Salaries for members	600.00
Outstanding check	12.00
Mailing, mimeographing	69.80
Certificates	75.64
Total	1,429.44
Balance	125.96

BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY

The board of accountancy created by act of February 17, 1923, reports that during the fiscal year it held five formal meetings and considered 19 applicants for certificates as certified public accountants. There have been 52 certificates issued to June 30, 1925.

The financial report is as follows:

Receipts

Balance on hand, July 1, 1924	$1,006.90
Fees deposited	940.00
Certifying standing of holders	20.00
Sale of examination questions	18.75
Refunding of postage	.05
Deficit June 30, 1925, temporarily covered by personal advances by members	306.23
Total	2,291.93

Disbursements

Fee deposit refunded	$735.00
Expenditures, including $706.90 as salaries of members of the board	1,006.90
Current expenses	550.03
Total	2,291.93

BOARD OF EXAMINERS AND REGISTRARS OF ARCHITECTS

The board of examiners and registrars of architects, which was created by an act of Congress approved December 13, 1924, reports that 105 applications were received for certificates of qualification to practice under the title of "Architect" in the District of Columbia, of whom 73 were registered, 21 applicants were notified that they will be required to submit to examination, and 11 cases are pending. Applicants of prior practice have been filed by 14 persons who are entitled to act as "Architect," but not as "Registered Architect," pursuant to the provisions of law.

The financial report is as follows:

Receipts

Application fees	$930.00
Advanced by treasurer	50.00
Interest	1.59
Total	981.59

Disbursements

Stenographic service	$159.45
Refundment of advance by treasurer	50.00
Stationery and printing	219.99
Advertising	7.20
Copies of organic law	13.00
Mimeographing	5.00
Postage	5.00
Total	459.64
Balance	521.95

BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

The law of Congress creating a board of examiners in optometry in the District of Columbia was approved May 28, 1924, and went into effect immediately.

The members of the board of optometry were appointed June 18, 1924, and on the following day the members met and organized by electing a president, a vice president, and a secretary-treasurer.

The board gave a limited examination to 98 applicants and a standard examination to 13 applicants.

The board received in cash for application fees for examinations and renewal fees for 1925, etc., $3,416.

The expenditures of the board for administrative purposes, including files, stationery, books, printing, refunds, registering of optometrists with clerk of supreme court, salary of secretary and treasurer, and compensation to the members of the board, were $2,229.55, leaving a balance in the treasury of $1,186.45.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT BUREAU

The public employment bureau placed in suitable employment during the year 28,923 men and women, an increase of 3,945 over the preceding year.

It has been the aim of this bureau to give special attention to ex-service men seeking employment in order to acquire education.

EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

A report of the injured employees of the District of Columbia coming under the Employees' Compensation Commission for the year ending June 30, 1925:

Appropriation for year ending June 30, 1925	$10,000.00
Deficiency	5,000.00
Total	15,000.00

Expenditures

Compensations	$11,672.87
Widows (five)	1,587.67
Dependent child	112.68
Hospital and doctors' bills	1,629.78
Total	15,000.00

The different departments had the following number of employees injured:

Street cleaning (city refuse)	138	Board of Charities	4
Surface division	55	Weights, measures, and markets	2
Water department	45	Board of Children's Guardians	1
Public schools	34	Auditor's office	1
Sewer division	33	Purchasing office	1
D. C. repair shop	29	Electrical department	1
Trees and parkings	15		
Health department	6	Total	365

PUBLICATIONS

The following publications were issued by the health department during the past fiscal year:

Name of publication	Number printed	Cost of preparation	Cost of printing	Number distributed by mail, messenger, etc.	Cost of distribution
Annual Report, 1924	500	Unable to estimate	$1,079.00	About 200	$1.11.
Weekly Report	142	105 hours annually ($1,500 typist), $70; 105 hours annually ($1,020 messenger), $48; 45 reams paper at 57 cents.	26.06	142 weekly	$1.42 per week.
Monthly Bulletin, Grades of Milk.	1,000	24 days per annum ($1,860 inspector-clerk), $124.	240.00	670 monthly	$6.70 per month.

ROADWAY PAVEMENTS

The accompanying table shows the area in square yards of new roadway pavements laid and old roadway pavements resurfaced during the year, with the total in square yards and miles of the various kinds of pavements at the close of the fiscal year.

Comparative statement showing character and extent of roadway pavements

	Existing amount on June 30, 1924		New pavements laid during year (square yards)	Pavements replaced during year (square yards)	Existing amount on June 30, 1925	
	Square yards	Miles			Square yards	Miles
Sheet asphalt and coal tar	3,443,476	183.36	66,882		3,510,358	186.88
Asphalt blocks	612,205	31.11		[1] 6,049	606,156	30.78
Asphaltic surface (Bessonite)	128,039	9.64	14,059		142,098	10.47
Durax blocks	17,968	.57			17,968	.57
Asphaltic or bituminous concrete:						
On concrete base	78,708	4.58			78,708	4.58
On stone base	38,909	2.16			38,909	2.16
Cement concrete	456,095	23.91	112,279		568,374	29.68
Granite block and rubble	317,962	17.47		[2] 14,059 [1] 17,328	286,575	15.64
Vitrified block	17,390	1.04			17,390	1.04
Cobble	36,374	1.52			36,374	1.52
Macadam (estimated)	1,687,098	108.20		[1] 26,655 [3] 46,137	1,614,306	104.74
Gravel and unimproved (traveled)		160.39				165.80
Gutters on asphalt streets	243,588		4,764		248,352	
Pavements maintained by street railways	616,807				616,807	
Gutters on asphaltic concrete streets	9,847				9,847	
Total	7,704,466	543.95	197,984	110,228	7,792,222	553.86

[1] Replaced with sheet asphalt. [2] Covered with asphaltic surface. [3] Replaced with cement concrete.

The sums appropriated for expenditures during the year under this head were as follows:

For repairing old roadway pavements, including asphalt resurfacing	$600,000
For paving new roadways	605,650
For repair of suburban roads	275,000
For grading streets, alleys, and roads	50,000
For paving and repaving roadways under the gasoline tax road and **street fund**	925,000

The prices paid under contracts for roadway pavements during the year were as follows:

	Per square yard
Laying sheet asphalt pavement (2½-inch asphalt surface, 2-inch binder before compression) with 6-inch concrete base:	
Class B—A reduced oil asphalt	$2.47 and $2.89
Laying vitrified block with 6-inch concrete base	2.90
Laying 6-inch concrete roadway	1.90

The outstanding feature of the year's construction program in this division was the work made possible by the tax on motor-vehicle fuels amounting to over $900,000, distributed to 14 separate streets. This and some other increments added over $1,100,000 to the amount of our annual expenditures in excess of the preceding year's total. Due to the fact that the collection of the gasoline tax, month by month, limited the work payable therefrom that could be executed to the current balance of collections a certain retardation of this part of the year's work resulted, but despite this limitation all the work authorized by appropriation was completed or under contract and nearing completion at the end of the fiscal year.

The amount of resurfacing of asphalt pavements that could be done was about one-third of that necessary to prevent increase in the average age of the total yardage of this type—an average now far beyond that of any other municipality and evidenced by the deteriorated condition of the older streets especially in the early weeks of the working season. In recognition of this, more liberal funds have been provided for the coming year but there is a long arrearage of neglect to be made up. A moderate additional use of Bessonite was made on Seventh Street from Pennsylvania Avenue to G Street south. The examples of this form of surfacing laid in the past year or two exhibit satisfactory evidences of durability and further use will be made of the type.

A significant increase in the extent of repairs to cuts in pavements for underground installations occurred in the year's record of $435,000 for this work compared with about $370,000 for the preceding year. The individual items making up this total exceeded 60,000; every type of surface was involved in these repairs; the work was conducted, in effect, on a charge basis of 5 per cent addition to labor and material and the fund is self maintaining and thoroughly solvent.

At the end of the year all work of construction and maintenance of pavements that was provided for had been completed except a very few items intentionally retarded.

SUBURBAN ROADS

The appropriation for repairs to suburban roads and suburban streets was $275,000, and the appropriation for grading streets, alleys, and roads was $50,000. Approaches were adjusted and surfaces relaid at the end of all newly paved streets, which work was charged to the various appropriations for paving. All cuts by plumbers and others in the suburban sections were repaired.

The very large amount of building being done in the suburban area and the consequent wear on street surfaces of all kinds has greatly increased the amount of work to be done by this organization. A great number of new unpaved streets opened and built

upon during the year were added to the number to be maintained until they can be paved, requiring a corresponding increase in expenditures for work of a temporary character.

MUNICIPAL ASPHALT PLANT

During the year of 1925 the municipal asphalt plant was operated for a period of 242½ days, with a total output of 213,528 cubic feet of material, or an average daily output of 880½ cubic feet.

The details of the cost of the operation of the plant are contained in the report of the engineer of highways.

SIDEWALKS AND ALLEYS

The fund for paving alleys and sidewalks abutting private property amounted to $300,000, and for sidewalks abutting Government property $15,000. Cement concrete was used almost exclusively. The contract prices for sidewalks were lower than in the preceding year, being $2.08 per square yard for those adjacent to paved roadways and $2.21 per square yard for those adjacent to unpaved roadways; the latter being significantly in more remote localities.

BRIDGES

The expenditure for construction and repair of bridges amounted to $29,843.44 and the appropriations for the maintenance of the Anacostia and Highway Bridges were expended practically in full.

Portions of N Street trestle and bins were reconstructed.

Concrete culverts were constructed in line of Potomac Avenue and Manning Place.

Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge SE. was refloored.

ENGINEER STABLES

This activity rendered service at a substantial saving over the cost of hired teams. About 45 head of stock were maintained.

INSPECTION OF ASPHALT AND CEMENTS

Through this office, tests, chemical and physical, are made of materials used in street and road improvements, likewise all cements used in building and in sewer construction, fuel oils used at the municipal asphalt plant and miscellaneous tests of any materials requiring such. Tests made during the year were: Asphalt materials, 1,357; oils, 24; tars, 8; sand, 231; gravel, 121; stone, 235; limestone dust, 63; cements, 18,701, representing 187,643.75 barrels; and miscellaneous materials, 724. Total, 21,464.

Samples of asphalt tested represent 3,899½ tons, 3,139 tons used by contractors for laying roadways and 720½ tons used at municipal asphalt plant in producing paving materials.

Of the material tested there were rejected 1,515 cubic yards of concrete sand, 3,000 cubic yards of asphalt sand, and 2,800 cubic yards of gravel.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE

The work of this office is divided, more or less, into three classes:

1. Work performed for private parties for which fees are charged as prescribed by order of the commissioners, and where not covered by schedule of fees, estimate is made covering the actual cost of the work to be performed.

2. Work done for the various departments of the Federal and District Governments for which no fees are charged.

3. Work done in connection with condemnation cases for the opening of streets and alleys, parks, school and playground sites, etc.

All classes of work in this office for the past fiscal year, ended June 30, 1925, showed a large increase over any previous year.

The total number of orders for work was 14,001 as compared to 11,707 for the previous year, making an average of about 45 orders for work per day.

The total receipts amounted to $55,809.95 as compared to $43,925.50 for the previous year, the amount collected for the past fiscal year being the largest amount ever collected for private work by the surveyor's office. Allowing for official work performed, this more than makes the office self-sustaining.

SURVEY TO MARK PERMANENT SYSTEM OF HIGHWAYS

The appropriation of $2,000 to be used for marking the permanent system of highways on the ground by permanent monuments has been used to splendid advantage. In the creation of new subdivisions if it were not possible to mark block corners, a large cost would be added in case of subsequent survey of the lots in the subdivision.

REVISION OF THE HIGHWAY PLAN

The appropriation of $1,500 for revision of the highway plan has also been advantageously used. Several studies have been made, but not yet submitted for final action by the commissioners and the highway commission, while others have been completed and made a matter of record.

More money could be used very advantageously for this work, especially since the creation of the National Capital Park Commission.

The acquisition of park areas, in many cases, necessitates a change in the highway plan to fit new conditions arising by reason of the acquisition of these park areas. No park should be acquired without a study of the highway plan, and both should be made to harmonize. This office feels, however, that the proper location of highways for the orderly development of private property, and the proper provisions for future traffic, is of great importance and should not be sacrificed.

CONDEMNATIONS

This office has charge of the work of preparing descriptions and plats for all condemnation cases to be prosecuted in court. This necessitates a vast amount of work by this office, such as accurate surveys of the property to be condemned, computations and plats based on actual surveys, and the furnishing of expert information to the jurors by the engineers of this office.

The total amount awarded as damages by the juries in the cases which were confirmed was $369,296.93 for the miscellaneous cases and $8,532.10 for the alley cases.

STREET EXTENSIONS

The record books show 59 cases for streets recorded, which were acquired by dedication or condemnation. A list in detail has been prepared showing the streets acquired, with their exact location, and submitted with the annual report.

PARKS

During the past year several small park areas were acquired, located as follows:

Parcel 144/23, at Sixteenth and Girard Streets, and Brentwood Road NE. Parcels 144/37 and 144/39, at Brentwood Road, Franklin and Fifteenth Streets NE. Square 3707, at New Hampshire Avenue, North Capitol and Longfellow Streets NE. Square 5606, at Good Hope Road and Minnesota Avenue SE. Square west of 1556, at Massachusetts Avenue, Forty-seventh and Upton Streets NW.

In this connection this office desires to call attention to a generous dedication of land for park purposes made by Mrs. Anne Archbold. This tract lies along the west side of Arizona Avenue, extending from the Glover Parkway to Reservoir Road, and will comprise a valuable addition to the park donated by Mr. Charles C. Glover known as the Glover Parkway. Mrs. Archbold is to be commended for the public-spirited and generous motives which prompted the donation of this tract to the District.

The park site selected to be acquired under the $5,000 appropriation for small parks was square 3638. Many small park sites were needed and should have been acquired, but the small appropriation of $5,000 would not permit of the acquisition of more property for this purpose. Property values having greatly increased during recent years, it is impossible to acquire but a very small amount of ground with such a small appropriation.

HIGHWAY PLAN

The permanent system of highways plan for that part of the District outside of what is known as the Federal city covered by the L'Enfant plan was adopted prior to 1900, and recorded in this office. All subsequent opening of streets and the subdivision of land were required to be made in conformity to the highway plan, except in some minor cases where the plan has been changed in accordance with the requirements of law in such cases where it was believed the topographical and changed conditions justified such changes.

Under the present law and regulations, streets in accordance with the highway plan can be acquired only when dedicated by the proprietors of the land or in cases where the commissioners deem that the streets should be opened in the public interests, in which case condemnation proceedings are instituted; but in all condemnation cases the law requires the entire cost of the land plus the court costs to be assessed as benefits.

There are a great number of proposed streets of vital importance to the proper development of the District in accordance with the highway plan. A comprehensive and orderly development of the highway plan can not nor will ever be perfected under either of the methods outlined above. These streets form an integral part of the general plan. The acquisition of the land within the lines of these streets must be completed in advance of all physical improvements, such as grading, sidewalks, sewer, water, etc., and it would seem that there are few more important matters to be given serious consideration by the commissioners than the opening of these streets. It would be a serious reflection upon the vision and foresight of the present authorities if these streets are not opened before they are blocked by costly improvements. Some important ones have already been blocked by reason of the delay in opening them.

There are very substantial reasons why these streets can not be acquired under existing law. In many cases small holdings would be wiped out or substantial improvements destroyed, creating a cost which could not in equity be assessed against the property benefited.

A tentative list of streets which should be opened has been prepared by this office, many of which will never be acquired under existing law on account of the impossibility of finding benefits equal to the damages and court costs. This list comprises over 40 streets and avenues, with approximately a total of 20,000,000 square feet of land, at an estimated cost of $7,000,000. The cost of condemnation of these streets, however, could be materially reduced by assessing some of the total cost back on the land benefited.

Some method should be devised to provide a very substantial fund to inaugurate a policy for the acquisition of all important streets. This might be done by direct appropriation or by authority to use a part of the surplus now in the Treasury to the credit of the District of Columbia.

CLOSING OLD ROADS

The authority given the commissioners by the last Congress under Public Act No. 349, approved January 30, 1925, to close streets, roads, or highways in the District rendered useless and unnecessary by reason of opening streets in accordance with the highway plan, has been applied in a number of cases to the betterment of the street plan, and has been found to be very beneficial in the resubdivision and development of land.

TREES AND PARKING

Two thousand two hundred and thirty young trees were planted in their permanent positions at the curb line along the streets of the District of Columbia during the fiscal year 1925. The increase of 21 miles in the mileage of street trees is the greatest yet accomplished. A sum of $19,920 was expended for labor and material in connection with this work.

The usual variety of causes necessitated the removal of 1,998 trees from public space, 1,499 of which were paid from the appropriation for the trees and parking division at a total cost of $4,930.78, and the remainder from the appropriations of other departments and whole cost deposits.

Forty-eight thousand five hundred and nine trees, an increase of 38,899 over the previous year, were sprayed for the extermination of leaf-eating insects at a total cost of $2,164.65 for material and labor.

The nurseries at Fort Dupont and Poplar Point are well stocked with small trees of the varieties considered best for street planting. Approximately 75 acres adjacent to Fort Dupont have been loaned to this department, and it is believed that this will relieve the scarcity of nursery stock to a considerable extent. Nine hundred and fifty-three gingko, 855 willow-leaf oak, 346 elm, 403 Norway maple, 94 red oak, 153 lombardy poplar, and 90 acacia trees were transplanted to the nursery rows during the year.

No systematic trimming was undertaken during the year but attention was given to the numerous individual requests of residents and a sum of $5,939.88 expended in this work. The casualties reported by the police department were attended to at a total cost of $1,450.66; and the storm damage removed at a total cost of $340.38.

The cultivation of young trees along the streets was accomplished at a total cost of $1,479.16, while a sum of $3,575.67 was expended for the removal of weeds from the parkings.

While it is believed that the trees of Washington are in general good condition, insufficient appropriations have curtailed the activities of this department in its endeavor to give the existing trees proper attention and at the same time attempt to plant the new streets.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF CITY REFUSE

The amount expended for dust prevention and cleaning of streets and alleys and for the removal of snow was $443,667.39. The appropriation of $410,000 was increased by $35,000 during the session because of the emergency of handling a heavy snowfall in January. More than $44,000 was spent on this account.

The division has now six flushers, and it is proposed to buy two more before next winter. Flushing is the best method for cleaning the streets, say, nine months of the year. Last year 323,825,000 square yards were flushed, as compared with 89,246,000 square yards the year previous.

The amount of garbage collected was not so great by 2,162 tons as in the previous year. Notwithstanding 3,629,875 pounds of grease were produced, which netted receipts of $250,049.44. The expense of operating this reduction plant, together with the cost of shipping the raw garbage from Washington to Cherry Hill, was $180,126.60, so that garbage disposal was a source of profit to the extent of $69,922.84.

The past year the value of dump paper was exceptionally low, so that the receipts from the trash plant totaled but $92,361.18, whereas the cost of disposal was $101,029.60. However, attention is invited to the fact that at the worst this is a very cheap means of disposal and that, furthermore, it is the most unobjectionable method of disposal.

The total receipts for this division from all sources were:

Garbage grease	$250,049.44
Salvaged trash	92,361.18

Hides	$2,610.00
Manure	2,183.71
Total	347,204.33

The ashes from private householders were collected and disposed of at a cost of $133,484.49. Much of this material was used with benefit as a temporary surfacing to newly opened streets and alleys.

The division collected a total of 43,609 dead animals during the year. This was an increase of 8,764 over the previous year.

BUILDING OPERATIONS

The estimated value of building operations for 1925 was $62,862,980; for 1924, $39,403,207. The increase for the year just ceased was $23,459,773, an amount approximating double the yearly average of the pre-war period. This remarkable increase in building activities may be attributed only to the extraordinary growth, both actual and potential, of the District, as there have obtained no abnormal conditions in respect of buildings costs, materials or labor.

The number of permits issued was 11,993, or 547 more than in 1924. New buildings totaled 5,319, as against 3,012 in 1924, an increase of more than 70 per cent. Apartments numbered 120, while in 1924 there were 81, a difference of 39. Dwellings increased nearly 100 per cent, the respective numbers being 4,129 and 2,079. There were 1,070 business buildings erected in 1925 and 852 in 1924, a difference of 218.

Under the zoning law, certificates of occupancy were issued as follows: Conforming, no fee, 213; nonconforming, no fee, 133; both conforming and nonconforming, for which fees were charged, 2,663; total, 3,009. The fees received aggregated $5,500.

CONSTRUCTION OF MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

During the year nine buildings were under construction, as follows: Addition and alterations to Engine House No. 16; the Health School; John F. Cook School, 16-room building including combination assembly hall and gymnasium; Engine House No. 29; Truck House No 13.; alterations in the heating and electrical systems of the power plant for Armstrong Technical High School; addition to the laundry at the Tuberculosis Hospital; cottage for the National Training School for Girls, located at Muirkirk, Md.; District Training School, located near Laurel Md., construction of mess hall and dormitory.

Preliminary studies for the McKinley Technical High School have been made. This school will be placed on the market for bidding about January 1, 1926.

Besides the preparation of plans and specifications for the above-mentioned buildings, plans and specifications for about 50 other pieces of work, such as heating systems in engine houses, police stations, and school buildings, and equipment for various buildings were prepared in this office, amounting to $176,318. The contracts entered into by this office for the fiscal year amounted to a total of $1,015,431.93.

REPAIRS TO MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

All municipal buildings are kept in repair under the direction of the municipal architect.

The appropriations for repair work and the expenditures of same were as follows:

For the repairs to school buildings: $325,000 was appropriated, and all was expended.

For repairs to engine houses: $25,000 was appropriated, and all was expended.

For repairs to police stations: $7,000 was appropriated, and all was expended except $474.81.

For repairs to police court: $2,000 was appropriated and all was expended.

In addition to the above, repairs were made on various buildings under the supervision of the superintendent of repairs to the amount of $47,675.99 out of appropriations controlled by other departments.

Steam boilers in over 100 District buildings were inspected and repaired.

Modern lighting systems were installed complete or in part in 22 schools.

WORKHOUSE AND REFORMATORY

Good progress was made during the year in the construction work at the District Workhouse and Reformatory, consisting principally of constructing a building and installing machinery for a new brick-making unit at the brickyard, putting in service a section of the industrial railroad between the workhouse and reformatory and continuing work on the permanent buildings at the reformatory and workhouse. A considerable amount of repair work was performed at both institutions. At the close of the fiscal year three shops, one cell house, one disciplinary dormitory, and one boiler house had been completed at the reformatory; two shop buildings, one washhouse, and three dormitories were completed except for floors, installation of heating and plumbing, etc., and there were under construction three dormitories and one mess hall. At the workhouse the main structure of the first dormitory was completed and foundation laid in the second dormitory. A brick building was also constructed to house the new brick machinery.

DISTRICT BUILDING

The District Building, as originally planned, provided sufficient light and ventilation, also sufficient room, for the efficient execution of duties imposed upon the various departments of the District government. During recent years new departments have been created and many departments have increased their personnel, which has necessitated the building of partitions in offices and of rooms in corridors, thereby cutting off light and ventilation which are essential both from a health and from an efficiency point of view. Additional floor space should be acquired for the relief of this congestion. There were numerous repairs made to the power plant. Consumption of coal totaled 2,168.6 tons, which averaged 17.3 per cent ash, an increase in consumption of 154 tons, due to the high percentage of ash. Ash totaling 867 cubic yards were removed at a cost of $428.50.

Total number of kilowatt hours generated was 521,208. The pneumatic-tube system was in operation 2,153 hours, the heating system 5,092 hours, the ventilating system 826 hours, and the cooling system 2,636 hours. The woodwork and paint shop completed work totaling $6,435.32, which included building of partitions, doors, cashier cages, etc., also the painting of walls and ceilings, repairing of locks, doorstops, and doorchecks throughout the building. The electrical department has charge of the operation and repair of one freight and six passenger elevators, including operating boards, meters, inclosures, grids, etc., also installation of lights, fans, and electrical equipment. The entire system of intercommunicating telephones was renewed as well as the elevator brake shoes. There were many lights rearranged, due to office changes, and approximately 25 new lighting fixtures installed. The blue print and protograph shop completed 104,217 square feet of blue printing, at a cost of $2,480.43, and 485 photographs and maps, at a cost of $415.15.

MUNICIPAL GARAGE

Forty-four automobiles were maintained and kept in running condition during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1925. The garage was kept open day and night for urgent and necessary transportation. The machines were washed and supplied with gasoline and oil by the night force. A Duco paint shop has just been completed for the purpose of repainting automobiles for the entire District service.

The operating costs for the maintenance of these automobiles, including gasoline, oil, tubes, labor, and miscellaneous supplies, amounted to $18,692.38, or an average of $424.83 for each car—$0.0615 per mile.

The cost of repair parts used in the automobiles was $4,132.48, an average of $93.92 for each car, or $0.0205 per mile.

The total mileage made by these automobiles amounted to 235,535 miles, or an average of 5,353 miles per car.

Owing to the crowded condition of the garage, a second story should be added to the present building.

PLUMBING AND PLUMBING INSPECTION

The plumbing inspection division made 56,636 inspections during the year. About half of these were inspections of plumbing work in new buildings and about one-half were inspections on account of complaints of insanitary plumbing, leaky roofs, and defective rain leaders, which originated in other divisions of the District government.

During the year 34 warrants were obtained against unlicensed plumbers and others for violation of the plumbing regulations. These prosecutions netted a total in police court fines of $280. No case taken to court by the plumbing division was decided adversely.

The plumbing board held 24 meetings and examined 68 applicants, of whom 8 passed and were granted master-plumber licenses. At the close of the year there were 246 registered plumbers and 6 registered gas fitters.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCE STATIONS

There were in operation throughout the year four convenience stations, opened daily from 6 a. m. to midnight, and during the year the attendants reported a total patronage for all stations of over twelve and a half million. The cash receipts from use of pay compartments, etc., totaled $7,227.63, this being about one-third of the actual cost of the operation of the stations.

INSPECTION OF STEAM BOILERS

Four hundred and fifty-two steam boilers were inspected by the inspector of steam boilers during the year, including 42 boilers belonging to the District of Columbia. Five boilers were condemned as unfit for further use. The compensation of the inspector of steam boilers is paid from fees collected from the owners. The total amount of the fees reported by that official was $2,260 and the expense of inspection $375, leaving a net compensation of $1,885 for the inspector.

EXAMINATION OF STEAM ENGINEERS

The board of examiners of steam engineers held 51 meetings and examined 225 applicants, of whom 121 were found competent and 105 incompetent.

STREET LIGHTING

There are 22,567 public lamps of all kinds in the avenues, streets, alleys, etc., under the jurisdiction of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia. Of these, 11,861 are gas and 10,706 electric; of the gas lamps, 10,892 are single-burner mantle, 586 are double-burner mantle, and 383 are small flat flame, for designation purposes; of the electric, 822 are magnetite arc, 9,633 are incandescent, ranging from 60 to 600 candlepower each (93 per cent of 60 and 100), and 251 are incandescent, of about 10 candlepower, for "designation."

There was a net increase during the year of 744 lamps.

The increase in aggregate candlepower of the street-lighting system under the jurisdiction of the commissioners is from approximately 1,929,900 to approximately 2,183,400, about 13.1 per cent. Of this increase, about 6.4 per cent is due to actual increase of plant and about 6.8 per cent to improved operation of the arc lamps.

But 3 arc lamps were added, 1 of 6.6 amperes and 2 of 4 amperes; 25 incandescent lamps of 600 candlepower replaced electric lamps of lower candlepower in New York Avenue, Seventeenth to Twentieth Streets, and in E Street, Eighteenth to Twentieth Streets NW.; 25 of 400 candlepower were added, replacing smaller electric lamps in Thirteenth Street, G to I, NW., and about the Garfield Monument, and as a new installation on south approach to Francis Scott Key Bridge; 272 of 250 candlepower were added as new installations in Cathedral Avenue west of Wisconsin Avenue, in Piney Branch Road, and in Naylor Road, and replacing smaller lamps at intersections in Fourteenth and Sixteenth Streets; of the smaller sizes, 307 were added, widely scattered, and 245 were discontinued. Of the gas lamps, 330 single burner were added, 258 single burner were changed to double burner, and 18 double burner added, all in the suburban territory.

The street lighting as a whole is distinctly inadequate. The installation in June of the 600-candlepower lamps in New York Avenue and E Street NW. was the initiation of the comprehensive plan heretofore reported; more extensive application of that plan is in process of installation.

The situation with respect to the several suits at law against certain railway companies for recovery of sums expended in maintaining lights adjacent to their respective rights of way remains essentially as stated in 1920 and succeeding reports, with accretion of sums claimed.

SIGNAL SYSTEMS—FIRE-ALARM TELEGRAPH, POLICE PATROL, SIGNAL, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE

There were 844 fire-alarm boxes in service at the end of the year, 718 on underground and 126 on overhead wires, a net increase of 38 over the preceding year; 2,908 box and local fire alarms (exclusive of "additional" alarms) were received and transmitted during the year, of which 227 were false alarms.

There were 501 police patrol boxes in service at the end of the year, 401 on underground and 100 on overhead wires, an increase of 1 compared with the preceding year; 12 were added, none discontinued, and 21 were changed as to station connection, by reason of the institution of twelfth precinct and incident change of boundaries of other precincts.

There were 1,664 telephones connected to the District system at the end of the year, and 29 in use as portable sets by fire and electrical departments, an increase of 39 in the year.

There were 2,692 cells of storage battery in service on fire alarms, police patrol, and local circuits at the end of the year.

There were in service in the composite-signals system (fire alarm, police, and telephone) on June 30, 1925, a grand total of 7,674 miles of conductor, of which 7,566 miles were underground and 108 miles overhead. Reserve capacity of cable is below requirement of demand and below safe emergency provision. Provision for expansion is again presented as an urgent requirement.

HARBOR FRONT

The actual frontage of the District of Columbia devoted to commerce, with the exception of canals, is about 2 miles. The total available water front is 18 miles, of which about 8 miles is set aside for parks and for other purposes of the United States. The greater part of the wharf property under the control of the commissioners is situated along the Washington Channel.

The harbor police station and dock, the dock of the fire boat, the District morgue, the municipal fish wharves and market and the District workhouse and sand wharves are located on the Washington Channel between N and Thirteenth Streets. The balance of the frontage is leased by steamboat companies, boathouses, lumber dealers, etc.

The Congress has authorized and directed the Secretary of War to make a preliminary examination and survey of the water front on the north side of the Washington Channel and to submit plans and estimates of the cost of constructing an adequate terminal or

terminals to provide proper facilities for water transportation and for the interchange of traffic between vessels and railroads and highways, including any recommendations which may be deemed advisable for coordinating the full commercial use of the water front and approaches, with the beautification thereof. This survey is being made by the United States Engineer Office in charge of this district under the supervision of the Chief of Engineers of the United States Army.

Washington, with its growing population, may at some future time require that some of its commodities come by water and, with adequate terminal facilities, water-borne commerce should be encouraged. While it is extremely doubtful that the Government can get tenants that would be willing to pay a rental representative of a fair return on the cost of improving and developing the water front, any expenditure by the Government toward developing the water front of the National Capital in an attractive way can certainly be justified.

Some improvement in existing conditions has taken place.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE-DISPOSAL SYSTEM

The construction and maintenance of the sewerage system and the sewage-disposal system of the District of Columbia is placed under a division in charge of the sanitary engineer.

The length of main and pipe sewers constructed during the year was 22.74 miles. The total length of main and pipe sewers on June 30, 1925, was 813.97 miles, of which 158.66 miles are main sewers and 655.31 miles are pipe sewers. In addition to the above new sewer work, 263 storm-water catch basins were constructed during the year, bringing the total number to 6,247.

There was expended during the year on new extensions of the sewerage system the sum of $770,787.82, and on the sewage-disposal system, $28,309. The total cost of the sewerage system to June 30, 1925, was $17,203,086.29, and of the sewage-disposal system to the same date was $6,053,531.96, making a total cost of the complete system of $23,256,618.25.

The main sewerage pumping station and the three substations were in continuous operation throughout the year, handling the sewage of practically the entire District. In addition the main station handled the storm water from the 900-acre low-level area flanking Pennsylvania Avenue from Peace Monument to Fifteenth Street. At the main station the combined pumpage of sewage and storm water amounted to 27,269,598,000 gallons during the year. The Poplar Point substation pumped 836,321,560 gallons, the Rock Creek substation 455,274,764 gallons, and Woodridge substation 19,881,700 gallons of sewage during the year. Eliminating Rock Creek and Woodridge substations, which deliver their discharges to the main station, the above would indicate a mean daily pumpage of 73,960,114 gallons. The coal consumption at the main station for the year was 3,477 tons, of which about 9 per cent should be charged off to cover bunker loss, used by incinerator and miscellaneous uses.

Application was made on April 18, 1925, for a connection with the sewerage system of the District by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. This connection, the first under the agree-

ment of June 3, 1924, was made on June 10, 1925, in Western Avenue south of Beach Street.

The need of some preliminary treatment of raw sewage before discharging into the Potomac is becoming increasingly more evident. The amount now being discharged from Washington alone in the raw state exceeds, during the late summer and fall months, that allowed by good practice.

During the year new sewers were constructed to provide service for 1,171 new houses. This was accomplished by the construction of but 68.2 linear feet of sewer per house, at a unit cost of $220.58. This small unit extension was permissible as the result of a general expansion of the built-up sections of the city. However, indications now point to a considerable number of extensive suburban developments which will of necessity require a greater unit expenditure. As the result of this anticipated direction of growth of the city, it is foreseen that larger appropriations will be required to meet the demands for service sewers. At the close of the fiscal year, service sewers were ordered to the amount of $127,885 in excess of the appropriation.

WATER MAINS

During the year 114,000 feet, or 21.4 miles of water mains were laid, an increase of 7.1 miles over length laid last year, making total length of mains now in service 709.4 miles, at an aggregate cost of $5,628,955.40 paid from water department funds.

WATER CONSUMPTION

The mean daily consumption for the year was 65,373,949 gallons, giving a mean daily per capita consumption of approximately 134 gallons.

The total pumpage for the year was 13,170,444,660 gallons.

The total coal burned was 8,954 tons.

The cost of operating for the year was $119,149.87, as against $123,878.31 in 1924, thus making the total operative cost of pumping 1,000,000 gallons of water into the mains $9.05, which is $0.96 per million gallons less than in 1924.

The financial statement of the water department revenues and expenditures will be found in the report of the auditor for the District of Columbia.

WATER METERS

During the year 2,961 new meters were installed, and 72,915, or 86.60 per cent, of the total water services are now metered, a drop of nearly 1 per cent from the year 1924, due to increased building construction.

Very respectfully,

CUNO H. RUDOLPH,
J. F. BELL,
F. A. FENNING,
Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

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